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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

House eyes Tuesday passage of budget

» Reallocates $2.4M of Torres' earmarks

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The House Ways and Means committee has finished deliberations on the fiscal year 2017 budget and is looking to touch up a final product for passage by the full House by next Tuesday, Ways and Means chair Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday.

Sablan

Sablan said they have reallocated or moved around $2.46 million of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' proposed budget, which was $137.02 million.

The committee tried to accommodate urgent requests from various departments and agencies as gathered from recent budget hearings, Sablan said, reallo-

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NAP recipients similar to 2009 level

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Nutrition Assistance Program administrator Walter Macaranas said the recent number of food stamp recipients in the Commonwealth is almost the same level as seven years ago. NAP administers the food stamp program and Macaranas said the decline in the number of households under the program has been buoyed by the recent economic growth in the CNMI.

Macaranas said they are assuming people under the program are getting employed with several business establishments opening this year. "We take this as an as-

See NAP on Page 4

CEC certifies all 67 candidates

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission yesterday certified the names of 67 candidates for 37 positions up for grabs at the Nov. 8 general election.

At a CEC meeting held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, acting CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez informed the five CEC commissioners that all candidates have met the requirements of law to be placed on the ballot for the general election.

The Commonwealth Code gives CEC the duty to ensure that individuals meet the qualifications and requirements before their names are placed on the ballot.

Without objection from the commissioners, CEC, led by its chair Frances M. Sablan, adopted CEC resolution 16-001, certifying the 67 candidates.

The other CEC commissioners present

See CEC on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Commonwealth Election Commission chair Frances M. Sablan discusses an issue during CEC's meeting at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday. From left, CEC administrative officer Kayla S. Igitol, commissioner Trinidad L. Rabauliman (Saipan), commissioner Jesus I. Sablan (Saipan), chair Frances M. Sablan, acting CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez, commissioner Donald Hofschneider (Tinian), and Leilani I. Manglona (Rota).

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Saipan Community School is hosting its annual open house and parent orientation night scheduled today, Aug. 18,

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NATION
It tore through canyons and flew over ridges in every direction with astonishing speed, sending flames 80 feet skyward and forcing tens of thousands to flee their homes.

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LIFE & STYLE
On the first night of her book tour, Amy Schumer had a lot to talk about besides her book. Like what is the story with some of those couples on "The Bachelor?"

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Local

MHS to continue Aero Dolphins program

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Marianas High School vice principal Bobby James A. Cruz said yesterday the Aeronautical Dolphins' program would go on despite the contract of its former coordinator not being renewed this school year.

Cruz

The school opted not to renew the contract of John Raulerson, a mathematics teacher who also mentored the two-time Real World Design Challenge national champions Aeronautical Dolphins, which is also a five-time RWDC Pacific State Championship winner.

Despite of the non-renewal of Raulerson's contract, Cruz is confident the Aero Dolphins is in good hands with RWDC state coordinator Jeaniffer Cubangbang taking over the team this school year.

"The Aeronautical Dolphins is still alive and kicking. And we have a very strong group of students who are going to continue the program forward," said Cruz in yesterday's check presentation at McDonald's Middle Road.

McDonald's donated $1,000 to MHS as financial assistance to the school that will be used for whatever purpose that may arise.

Cruz said Cubangbang is the likely candidate to replace Raulerson. "Ms. Cubangbang, I believe is going to take on the role as mentor and coach to the students. So we're excited on what's going to unfold this school year. We have the highest expectation for the students.

Project manager Ann Margaret Norcio, aircraft design engineer Robert Malate, and systems planner Daniel Villarmero are the remaining members of the Aero Dolphins after four had graduated last June.

Project mathematician Masrur Alam, mission planner Matthew Cao, simulations engineer Jun Young Kim, and marketing specialist Edna Nisola are now attending different academic institutions in the U.S.

Alam will start with his biomechanical engineering degree at the Massachusetts Institute Technology, while Cao is going to attend the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport in Rhode Island, and Kim will be studying at the University of Michigan.

Raulerson was given a non-renewal letter last month by MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera based on Policy 60-30.3-164 that states the Public School System "will notify employees in writing at least 90 calendar days in advance if it intends to not renew their contract with PSS."

Cruz said it is MHS' policy not to discuss personnel matters. "One of the things that we do is not discuss personnel matters. It is important that we protect all of our personnel, our faculty, and staff. That is our role as leaders."

Raulerson's last day at MHS is on Oct. 5, a Wednesday.

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Democratic Party recognized as political organization in CNMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission yesterday recognized the Democratic Party as a political party organization in the CNMI.

At a CEC meeting held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, acting CEC executive director Julita A. Sablan informed the commissioners that the Democratic Party submitted two days before the deadline the necessary documents to be recognized as political party in the Commonwealth.

CEC chair Frances M. Sablan, in an interview, said the Democratic Party did not have candidates for every position in the previous elections, including in 2012.

Sablan said this is the reason why the Democratic Party had to reorganize again and turn in their documents to prove they did organize for this Nov. 8 election.

The chair said the Democratic Party submitted their documentation on Monday last week or two days before the deadline.

"So they are in compliance. They just took a little longer to submit all the necessary documents," she said.

For the next 2018 election, Sablan pointed out, the Democratic Party needs to again go through the process because they were not able to submit candidates for all seats for this Nov. 8 election.

"They have been told that they would need to go through the process again," Sablan said.

For this Nov. 8 election, the Democratic Party only has three candidates—Thomas Lee Atalig Manglona for Senate on Rota, Aaron Jay Murdock for the House Precinct 4 seat, and Tricia Marie Atalig Manglona for House Precinct 7 (Rota) seat.

The Democratic Party held a general membership meeting at the Garapan Central Park last July 8, where they elected the Central Executive Committee members as mandated by party bylaws.

Seventeen of the 24 individuals were nominated, accepted, and recognized as official members of the Central Executive Committee, the governing body of the Democratic Party of the NMI Inc.

Elected as CEC officers were Daniel O. Quitugua as chairman, attorney Janet King as vice chairman, Jonathan P Cabrera as secretary, and Emiliana Chargualaf as treasurer.

Location of drug rehabilitation center questioned

Marianas Behavioral International, Inc.'s plan to operate a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center in As Perdido has come under fire from concerned citizens who believe it poses a safety and security concern to residents of the area.

In last Thursday's Commonwealth Zoning Board meeting, Marianas Behavior Health representative Crispin M. Sablan defended the nonprofit organization's decision to set up shop along Haiguas Lane in As Perdido that has been classified as "institutional residential" and has been permitted in the district as conditional use.

He said he has seen first hand how many people have succumbed to the perils of drug and alcohol addiction and that's why setting up the

See LOCATION on Page 4

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McDonald's Saipan donates $1K to MHS

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

McDonald's Saipan donated $1,000 to the largest high school, population-wise, in the CNMI during a check donation ceremony yesterday at the fastfood company's main branch along Middle Road.

Middle Road branch manager Joe E. Ayuyu Jr. presented Marianas High School vice principal Bobby Cruz with the $1,000 check that is expected to be used to improve school grounds.

"McDonald's is very happy to support and donate to such a fine institution like MHS, especially one that helps our kids, as far as AP (Advance Placement) program [is concerned]; we've heard that it is excellent," says Ayuyu.

Ayuyu also mentioned the Aeronautical Dolphins. "And also the Aeronautical Dolphins, we are all for schools improving the infrastructure." Aeronautical Dolphins won the Real World Design Challenge twice and five times regionally.

Ayuyu stresses that facilities are important, as they are the environment where students are going to learn. "Cleanliness is a very important thing to us here in McDonald's so we're excited that the public schools will do their best in bringing the standards up also. We wanna go into the restroom, or for that matter, any classroom feeling comfortable and not feeling that there is a whole bunch of germs," he said. "[As a student,] I don't want to come into contact with germs and get sick. Then I won't be able to attend class, my favorite AP class."

The community is what makes McDonald's run, according to Ayuyu. "We look forward to more partnerships and to giving back to the community because at the end of the day the community is what makes us successful."

"We're here to serve the community and that's what we'll do for as long as we can," added Ayuyu.

MHS is looking forward to using the money in improving the grounds of the school. Cruz expressed the school's gratitude toward McDonald's and other businesses interested in donating.

"MHS is exponentially grateful to businesses that donate to our school, in particular we just want to extend our gratitude and appreciation to McDonald's. Thank you so much. I can guarantee you that every single cent of this money you are donating is going toward improving student life at our school," said Cruz.

He recognizes the role of the community in making the school life of students as promising as it could be. "We have many needs and I wish we could say that we have the capacity to independently provide for our students, but we don't. it truly does take a community. And so we value tremendously your support," claims Cruz.

Before parting, Cruz thanked Ayuyu once again and declared the money donated would be used with the intention of improving the school for the welfare of the students. "Again, McDonald's, thank you so much for your willingness to contribute to improving student life at MHS, and we just want to say that we are very grateful. And I promise you that that money would be used purposefully," said Cruz.

ERWIN ENCINARES

McDonald's Saipan's Natalie Mable Ayuyu and Joe Ayuyu Jr. and Marianas High School vice principal Bobby Cruz pose in front of the counter at McDonald's Saipan Middle Road branch with staff and students from Marianas High School and staff from McDonald's.

HOUSE

From Page 1

cating monies to help agencies in dire need of additional personnel and resources.

"We hope what we've done here would help improve public service," the lawmaker told *Saipan Tribune* after a committee meeting ended yesterday.

Sablan explained the reallocations were made possible when some monies were freed up under the Department of Public Safety and as a result of casino tax revenues going toward utility obligations for the local hospital, for example.

He said the DPS commissioner communicated that funding for some personnel would continue to be funded under federal money, freeing up roughly $300,000 for other priority requests.

A bill to appropriate the Saipan casino's business gross revenue tax, also authored by Sablan, will basically pay off $1.8 million earlier allotted in the budget to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. for outstanding utilities.

With the expected passage of the BGRT bill, House Bill 19-194, that money will no longer be needed for the hospital, freeing up the $1.8 million for reallocation. HB 19-194 allots $16 million for the hospital's outstanding balance.

Sablan said they were able to finally retire the government's civil service employees owed salary adjustments from lump sum payments from Public Law 7-31, in the amount of roughly $400,000.

Every other employee on Tinian and Saipan who were entitled compensation under PL 7-31 had been paid, save these Rota employees.

According to Sablan, the committee's reallocations included: $10,000 for the Department of Corrections' salary adjustments; $132,000 to the Zoning Board for a enforcement officer and two enforcement technicians; $200,000 to the Civil Service Commission; $685,000 to the Legislative Bureau to address back up power generation capacity, a big chunk of which is $365,000, $394,000 to the Legislature; $182,000 to the Northern Marianas Sports Association; $100,000 to the CNMI Superior Court for two probation officers and one deputy clerk for Rota; $7,000 for Judiciary administration for minor salary adjustments.

They also gave additional $40,000 to the Ayuda Network; $37,000 to Karidat, $55,00 to Tinian Labor, $55,000 to Tinian Agriculture department, and $55,000 to the Tinian operations and maintenance, as well as $50,000 to the Tinian mayor's office for inter-island medical referral.

They also gave the Rota Mayor's Office $459,000 for personnel, $400,000 of which is for salary obligations under PL 7-31.

The Department of Public Works was given $66,000 and also $44,000 and $56,000 for its technical service and roads and grounds divisions respectively.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources was given $20,000 for surveying equipment; DLNR's Rota agriculture was given $33,000 for a conservation coordinator; Rota Fish and Wildlife got a conservation officer 1 funded at $16,000; Rota police got additional $10,000; and DLNR Agriculture got $10,000 for fuel.

The Commonwealth Museum got $100,000 for personnel and also to restructure office administrator position to administrative officer, Sablan said.

Sablan said on Friday they would review their final product to make sure there were no discrepancies or issues and adopt a budget version with schedules summarizing personnel, utilities, and other worksheet on Monday.

"Once we adopt those we will be ready to set a schedule for session to entertain budget hopefully by Tuesday," said Sablan. "We are looking forward to present the budget to full House by Tuesday. That's what we are looking forward to. We are confident that we are able to do that. We'll give ourselves until Friday morning and then go from there.

"By Monday afternoon… we should have a version that is already clean, that would be entertained in the next session," he said.

CEC

From Page 1

were Jesus Sablan, Donald Hofschneider, Trinidad Rabauliman, and Lelanie Manglona.

"Through resolution, we certified the candidates. Our staff found that everything was in compliance. We went ahead and adopted that today," chair Sablan said.

She said the 67 candidates and the 37 seats include Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who is seeking retention on the bench.

U.S. Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP), who is seeking his fifth term, is running unopposed. First elected in 2008, Sablan became the first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives from the CNMI.

There are 35 other seats—three for the Senate, 20 for House of Representatives seats, nine for municipal councils, and three for the Board of Education.

For the Senate there are seven candidates, while 40 for the House. For the municipal councils there are 12, and six for the Board of Education.

At the meeting, CEC also adopted the ballot layout.

NAP

From Page 1

sumption that there are jobs out there and our people are getting employed."

Though no data was given on how many households have been receiving food stamps in 2009, Macaranas said they saw the decline in numbers starting four years ago. "We have realized a decline since 2012. The level right now that we are at is the same level we were at in 2009."

"The average household cases in 2012 were 3,662 and the numbers right now as of June 2016, there are 2,715. There is a rise and then there is a drop. Right now, there's been a decline since 2012," added Macaranas.

He said that they expect the numbers to still decline unless the guidelines would change, which would open up the door for more people to qualify.

"We do also have our minimum wage increase going up so our guidelines do not complement that. Our guidelines remain the same, which means that people are leaving the program because they don't meet the guidelines to qualify," said Macaranas.

He added that their budget would remain the same for the coming fiscal year. "It is not going to go down, although the participation is declining we're going to have the same funding amount. We're going to maintain our funding level at $12 million."

Last week, Macaranas revealed that at least 31 individuals were disqualified from receiving food stamps after failing to comply with workforce participation requirements. Those that were disqualified were part of NAP's progressive disqualification program implemented this year.

NAP has partnered with local agencies like the Northern Marianas Trades Institute and the Workforce Investment Agency to assist recipients in work training and finding jobs. Recipients must comply with work registration, education, and training requirements

Failure to do so would disqualify a recipient for three months in first offense. A second offense would disqualify you for six months and a third offense means permanent disqualification.

Teaming up with the likes of NMTI and WIA is part of the government's efforts to have more people join the local workforce with the CNMI's economy slowly improving after years of slump.

The administration wants people under the program to not totally depend on food stamps if they are still able to work and there are employment opportunities.

LOCATION

From Page 3

drug and alcohol rehabilitation center is very critical.

Several concerned citizens, however, spoke against the operation of a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center in the area.

One of those who opposed the said proposal was Liana M. Hofschneider, Sablan's own sister.

"As an aspiring psychologist, I am an ardent supporter of programs that provide for counseling and rehabilitation services to members of our community who have fallen prey to the ailment of drugs and alcohol," she said. "Unfortunately, the permit application for activities such as a drug and alcohol recovery center is not conducive to the residential environment where there are numerous families with children and very close proximity that ranges from 100 to 300 feet from the proposed center."

Hofschneider added, "This type of activity exposes the residents to compromise safety and security of their families and community members in the neighborhood."

Sablan addressed the concern by stating that the proposed drug and alcohol rehabilitation center would be a 24-7 operation manned by capable and well-trained individuals who would make sure that everyone's safety is given utmost importance. ***(Joan L. Taitano)***

Rota cop arrested for allegedly sexually abusing minor girl for years

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A police officer was arrested on Rota yesterday for allegedly sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl since she was 9 years old.

Police said the girl had confessed to a teacher that she does not know what to do and that sometimes she wants to end her life.

Police Officer Melvin Maratita Manglona, 48, was served with an arrest warrant on charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Manglona was taken yesterday afternoon before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who imposed a $100,000 cash bail.

Preliminary hearing will be on Aug. 23 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Manglona. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. appeared for the government.

Rota Police Detective Chloe Hocog stated in her report that she started the investigation on Tuesday at noon after she received information that a school principal filed a complaint about a sexual abuse involving a police officer.

Hocog said in an interview the girl stated that Manglona has been sexually abusing her since she was 9 years old and that the recent sexual encounter happened just last Thursday, Aug. 11.

The girl stated that Manglona picked her up from her sister's house in the morning and drove her to a baseball field, where he sexually abused her in the vehicle.

Hocog said according to a teacher, the girl walked into her classroom on Monday, where she typed on her phone about how hard it was for her to talk to anyone about her situation.

The girl then implied to the teacher about the person who sexually abused her.

The teacher disclosed that the girl had sent her text messages throughout summer break this year about her problems with a certain boy and that she cannot stand what was going on.

The teacher later found out that the boy the student was referring to was Manglona.

The teacher then notified the school's principal about the case.

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Bad weather cancels marijuana public hearing

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Santos

Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) was forced to cancel today's scheduled joint public hearing on Tinian for Senate Bill 19-106 or the act to regulate marijuana use in the CNMI due to bad weather. Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) pre-filed the bill last month.

Heavy monsoon rain has been battering the islands for more than a week now causing flooding in some areas. Saipan has also been experiencing strong winds brought by the monsoon flow. The past week also saw tropical storms Conson and Chanthu passing Saipan.

"[Today's] joint public hearing on Tinian is cancelled due to inclement weather conditions. The weather condition makes it difficult to travel," said Santos in a text message to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Santos is the Senate Health and Welfare Committee chair with Rep. Felicidad T. Ogumoro (R-Saipan) her counterpart in the House. Ogumoro is also the House Education Committee chairperson, and the Ways and Means Committee vice chair.

The joint public hearing, the first of three to get the pulse of ordinary folks on Tinian, was set at 6pm at the Tinian Courthouse. Separate hearings will also be held on Saipan and Rota.

Santos said the joint committee would reschedule the public hearing. "SB 19-106 has not got out to the general public for any public hearings since it was recently pre-filed and introduced."

"We're going to announce the new schedule as soon as the weather permits and if there's no conflict with other committee meetings or session call," she added.

Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, their municipal council members, all agency heads, resident department heads, private and public school principals, and the general public are requested to attend the hearing.

Santos and Ogumoro are still accepting written comments on the pre-filed bill, while oral testimony will be heard during the public hearing. Igisomar's bill aims to help the CNMI's need for access to medical marijuana.

Igisomar is pushing to allow the people of the CNMI access for medicinal, personal, and commercial use of marijuana. He was hoping it would become a law so it could have been included in the ballot in this year's midterm elections.

SB 19-106 first needs to become law first before it could be included in a referendum. But the Senate no longer has a chance to discuss it in their sessions with various committees either holding budget or public hearings.

Marijuana allegedly treats glaucoma, epilepsy, chronic pain, muscle spasms, and reduce nausea and vomiting during chemotherapy, and improve the appetite of people with HIV/AIDS. The use of cannabis is legal in Washington D.C., Guam, and more than 20 other U.S. states.

7 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged seven Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Affected sites Tanapag Meeting Hall, DPW Channel Bridge, Puerto Rico Dump, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach Drain, Civic Center Beach, and CK Dist #2 Drain.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(PR)***

Skywalker files counterclaim complaint against BSI

Skywalker Communications Group LLC filed yesterday a counterclaim complaint against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, the Hong Kong-based mother company of Saipan casino owner Best Sunshine International, Ltd.

"Skywalker responds to the Death Star complaint with its counterclaim. We intend to shed light on this Empire Plaintiff and its Dark Knight, not on planet Endor, but in the court of law," said attorney Robert T. Torres in his comment as counsel for Skywalker Communications.

Last month, Imperial Pacific, through counsel Michael W. Dotts, filed a lawsuit in the Superior Court against Skywalker Communications for its alleged inability to provide satisfactory work pertaining to their two contracts, including having key staff that were not sufficient in English communication design ideas, among other issues.

Skywalker filed counterclaim for breach of Special Groups Agreement claim against Best Sunshine, breach of contract of the Creative Design Agreement claim against Best Sunshine, breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing claim against Best Sunshine with regard to the SGA and CDA, and tortious interference with corporation's contract and interference with economic advantage against Best Sunshine International chief services officer Tao Xing.

Skywalker asked the court to hold Best Sunshine and Xing liable to pay the company in unspecified amount of damages, prejudgment and post-judgment interests, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Skywalker requested the court to conduct a jury trial as to all issues in the case.

According to Torres in the counterclaim complaint, on June 29, 2015, Skywalker, through Frank Chang, and Best Sunshine, through its chief services officer, entered into SGA.

The SGA provides that if either party became dissatisfied with the other party's services, the dissatisfied party has the option to require the other party, in writing, to improve its services.

The SGA provides, among other things, that if the dissatisfied party remains dissatisfied after the expiration of 20 days, the dissatisfied party may terminate the SGA.

Termination under any other circumstances under the SGA requires 60 days' notice, Torres said.

On Aug. 5, 2015, Skywalker and Best Sunshine entered into CDA.

The CDA provides that if either party defaults on the contract, the party not at fault may inform the defaulting party, and the defaulting party must remedy the breach within a specified period of time.

The CDA provides that if the defaulting party fails to remedy the breach, the party not at fault may terminate the contract and claim compensation for losses.

Torres said in the event of any disagreement, the CDA requires the parties to resolve the disagreement with amicable negotiations and if a solution cannot be reached within 60 days of the dispute, the parties must submit to mediation.

Torres said that, on Jan. 30, 2016, Best Sunshine summarily and without prior notice terminated the SGA and the CDA.

Thereafter, Torres said, Skywalker's legal counsel contacted Best Sunshine.

Torres said apparently realizing its mistake, on Feb. 2, 2016, Best Sunshine rescinded the previous blatantly improper terminations.

On Feb. 6, 2016, Best Sunshine gave Skywalker a notice to improve services with regard to the agreements.

Torres said the notice to improve services detailed areas of alleged dissatisfaction under the SGA and CDA and arbitrarily assigned Skywalker 20 days to improve services under the SGA and 30 days to improve services under the CDA.

On Feb. 17, 2016, Skywalker sent Best Sunshine its objection to notice to improve services and notice of dispute, wherein Skywalker challenged Best Sunshine's allegation of dissatisfaction and entered its official notice that there was a dispute.

Torres said despite having been put on notice that it was in violation of the negotiation and mediation provisions of the CDA and SGA, Best Sunshine disregarded Skywalker's notice and bullied its way forward to summarily terminate the SGA.

Torres said Best Sunshine's action rationalized that Skywalker's notice of dispute was evidence that Skywalker was somehow failing to adhere to the terms of the agreement regarding meeting its objectives, and utterly failing to address the good faith negotiation and mediation provisions cited by Skywalker.

On April 8, 2016, Skywalker sent Best Sunshine a notice of breach and demand for compliance wherein Skywalker informed Best Sunshine that it was in breach of the negotiation and mediation provisions that required a 60-day good faith negotiation period in the event of a dispute as to both agreements.

Torres said 19 days later, on April 25, Best Sunshine, under its own self-created terms and without regard or even mention to the elapsed 10-day period, informed Skywalker of its intent to mediate.

Torres said the notice of intent to mediate implied that both agreements had apparently been terminated and similarly refused to address the negotiation and mediation terms to which it had not only agreed, but had inserted into its own contracts of its own volition.

Torres said Skywalker thereafter informed Best Sunshine that it would take Best Sunshine's untimely request under consideration and prompted details for settlement.

To date, the lawyer said, Best Sunshine has failed to honor its promises and to participate in good faith toward proposed settlement or mediation scheduling.

Instead, Torres said, Best Sunshine filed a lawsuit after promising to engage in mediation.

Torres said as of the January 2016 payment only covering up to December 2015, Best Sunshine has failed to make payments due to Skywalker under the agreements since that date.

"Best Sunshine's failure to follow its own contracts and its failure to honestly engage with parties with whom its contracts is offensive and disappointing," the lawyer said.

Torres said Best Sunshine has breached the SGA and CDA by failing to, among other things, make payments under the terms of the agreement since January 2016, which only covered work done up to December 2015.

Torres said Xing had knowledge of the CDA and SGA but was not a party to them.

Torres said although Best Sunshine's chief services officer signed the agreements as the authorized representative, Best Sunshine was the party to the agreements.

The lawyer said Xing intentionally interfered with Skywalker's CDA and SGA contracts with Best Sunshine, which induced or caused a breach or termination of the agreements.

Torres said Best Sunshine's chief services officer acted intentionally in a way designed to disrupt the contractual relationship between Skywalker and Best Sunshine.

Torres said Xing was the primary instigator of the relationship break between Best Sunshine and Skywalker.

Along with the counterclaim, Skywalker also filed its answer to Imperial Pacific's lawsuit. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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- A minimum of 5 years of such experience or PR, marketing, or advertising in a sizable organization or consultancy is preferred

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- Experience of real estate, licensing, gaming, surveillance or equivalent monitoring activity.
- Knowledge of business, commercial, gaming law and government regulations.
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QUALIFICATIONS:
- At least High school graduate with strong Microsoft office skill
- Minimum of 4 years related experienced;
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- Must be willing to work flexible hours.
- Occasionally travelling required (overnight/day travel).

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ERWIN ENCINARES

Jonathan Wolf with his father, Leslie, after the declamation champion of the 2016 National and Junior National Speech & Debate National Tournament spoke at the weekly Rotary Club of Saipan meeting Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Declamation champ wows Rotary members

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jonathan Wolf, 12, impressed members of the Rotary Club of Saipan with his rendition of Sir Patrick Henry's speech that essentially ignited the American Revolution in 1775.

Wolf started public speaking at the age of 8. His award-winning speech won him the championship trophy at the 2016 National Junior Speech and Debate Association competition, which was held in Salt Lake City, Utah. The 7th grade Dandan Middle School student is now also a member of the Junior International Thespian Society.

"As always, success is directly proportionate to the combination of talent and hard work. I practice a lot. Everyday," said Wolf during an interview after serving as guest speaker of the weekly Rotary Clkub meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Tuesday.

He is now training as he is currently aiming to earn some points to take him to the national competition again. According to Wolf's mother and coach, Johanne, his son would be entering the monthly competition starting in October. "The [NJSDA] monthly competition will start in October, and it serves as a competition where kids gather points which will make them eligible to compete in the regional competition, the state competition. We're not sure whether it will be held again in February, and whoever makes it in the regional will be the representative for the CNMI in June for the national competition," said Johanne.

For the Thespian, competitions to rack up points would also be starting in October. "For Thespian, it will also start in October. The Junior International Thespian Society will hold its first competition this coming October. And, then again, they try to collect points. If they make it, if they win in the regional competition for the Thespian, they get sent to the nationals in February," said Johanne.

Jonathan Wolf, though young, is very efficient with his time when it comes to balancing his practice sessions and school activities. "I joined soccer when I was still doing PGFC (Primary Grade Forensic Conference) and how I balanced that was I joined the regular time in soccer, like, I joined soccer, I practiced for soccer at the regular time I was supposed to. And for PGFC I practiced whenever I get home, basically when I have free time I practice," he said.

"He's got a little play in there some time," chuckled Leslie, Jonathan's father.

The Thespian Nationals would be held in California, while the NJSDA nationals would be held in Alabama in June 2017.

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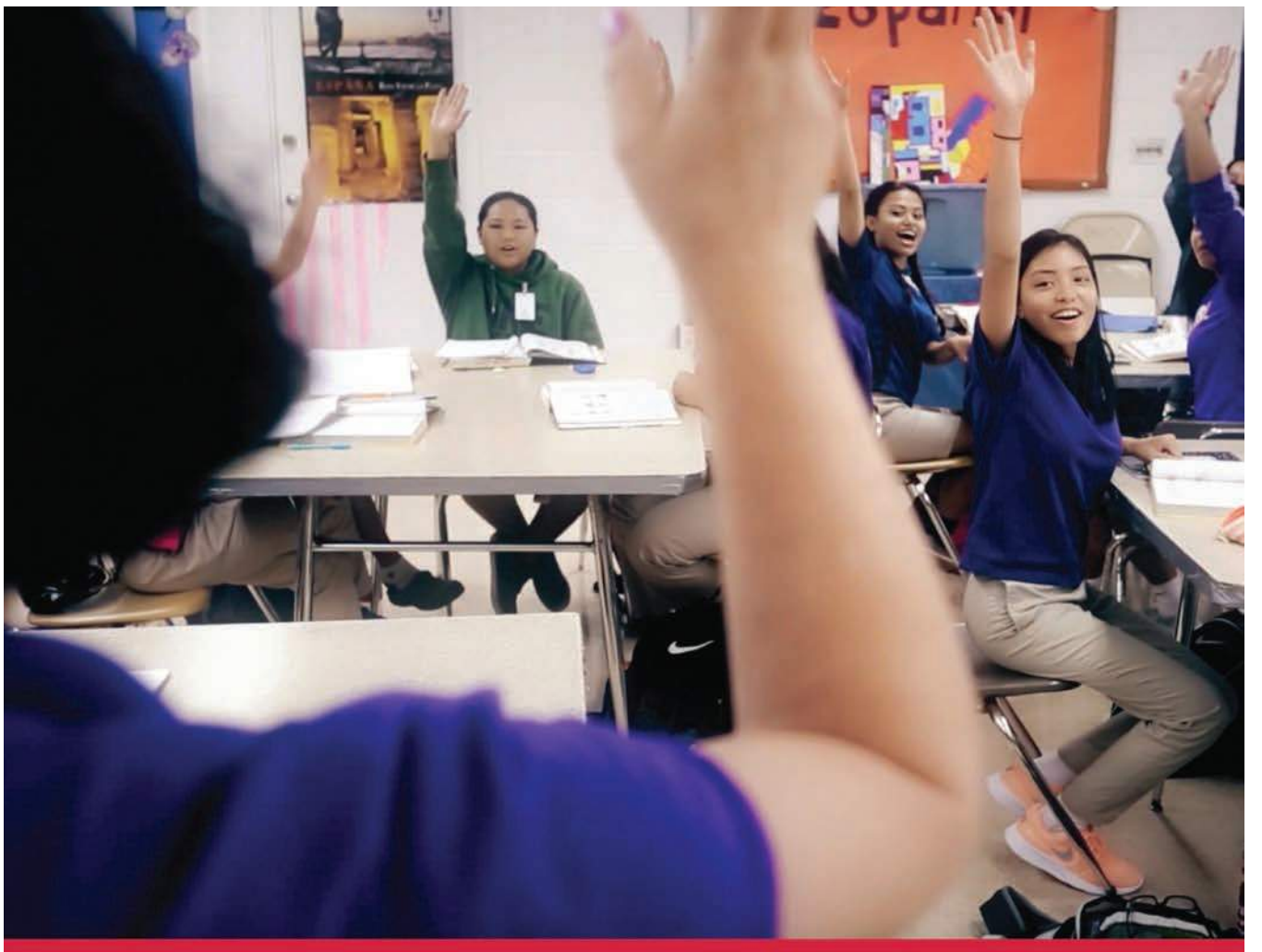

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BSI-CSR successfully implements 'School Pride Project'

This week the thousands of public elementary, middle, and high school students returned to a clean and spanking learning environment as a result of a successful implementation of the School Pride Project, a pioneering outreach and engagement initiative of Best Sunshine's Corporate Social Responsibility.

"The School Pride Project is definitely something that I personally have been very proud of. Education is very important and giving our children a suitable and enjoyable environment is key," CSR executive director Geri Dela Cruz said. "It gives me and my team great pleasure in assisting in the continued improvement of our public schools."

Thirteen public elementary, middle, and high school campuses on Saipan were served by BSI-CSR "School Pride Project."

"We hope that our students, our hardworking staff, and the community would be proud of CSR's contribution to our public schools for the new school year," Dela Cruz added.

The initiative was launched in middle of July with the intent of assisting the Public School System through the different public school campuses prepare for the new school year. The work ranged from clean up to repainting, repair, and renovation of some structures and facilities.

Garapan Elementary School principal Leila Yumul has acknowledged the continued support of Best Sunshine to her school. GES is home to the largest public elementary school population in the CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
San Vicente Elementary School principal Paulette Sablan and vice principal Anna Guerrero pose with the Best Sunshine International-Corporate Social Responsibility team prior to completion of the School Pride Project at SVES.

"Best Sunshine has just been there to support GES in many ways that I can't really say everything because there's too much," Yumul admits. "They just lifted a big load off of the school."

Among the major work done by BSI's CSR team was to repair and rehabilitate GES' playground system that sat idly after it was rendered unsafe for years.

For San Vicente Elementary School, the CSR team's commitment and sustained work is making a big difference in the community.

"(R)ight now our campus looks very lively after all we went through last year with (typhoon) Soudelor. Your commitment and continued efforts to go out into the community and do a lot of improvement projects is something we really appreciate," principal Paulette T. Sablan said in appreciation of the work of Best Sunshine's Corporate Social Responsibility team.

At Koblerville Elementary School, principal Rizalina P. Liwag said the beautification and improvement work was a tremendous help.

"We really want to express our appreciation to Best Sunshine for working with us in terms of beautification and improvement of our facility by painting the sidewalks and parking stalls," Liwag separately said.

William S. Reyes Elementary School is grateful of the similar work done.

"Thank you CSR team for providing us assistance in preparing for the opening of the new school year. We are grateful for what you have done for us within the time allotted," said vice principal Marji P. Tarope.

What was admirable for Tanapag Middle School principal Eric S. Thornburgh was how the voluntary work "was done with sincerity and dedication."

"The team worked with sincere smiles on their faces and with very uplifting spirits. Tanapag Middle School commends and thanked Best Sunshine and its CSR team for all their hard work and admirable work ethic," the school leader separately said.

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School principal Raena Bermudes agrees.

"A big 'thank you' to the Best Sunshine team for their partnership in ensuring a clean and safe campus environment for our students. We would not have been able to complete the tasks in time without all of you." ***(PR)***

DPS sets sobriety checkpoints on Saipan

The Department of Public Safety would like to inform the general public that the DPS Traffic Section will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on the dates and time listed below:

■ **Aug. 24:** The first sobriety checkpoint will be on Beach Road Garapan to Beach Road Chalan Piao from 8pm to 10pm. The second sobriety checkpoint will be from 11pm to 1am the next day, Aug. 25, from Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Puerto Rico south to Chalan Lau Lau.

■ **Aug. 26:** The first sobriety checkpoint will be from Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose to Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road, Dan Dan, from 9pm to 11pm. The second sobriety check point will on Beach Road Garapan to Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Lau Lau from 10pm to 12pm the next day, Aug. 27.

■ **Sept. 1:** The first checkpoint will be on Beach Road, Garapan south to Beach Road, Susupe from 8pm to 10pm. The second checkpoint will be on Chalan Pale Arnold, Garapan south to Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Lau Lau from 11pm to 1am the next day, Sept. 2.

Each DUI sobriety checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes). This activity is part of the Department of Public Safety's effort to Deter, Detect, Drowsy and Distracted Driving and Apprehend impaired drivers, and to ensure that all passengers are wearing proper restraining devices, seatbelts, or car seats.

For more information, please contact Police Sergeant Anthony Macaranas at (670) 483-5818. ***(PR)***

High surf, small craft advisories in effect until tomorrow

The CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point has issued high surf and small craft advisories until Friday as fresh to strong southwest winds and combined seas of 9 to 12 feet will persist the next few days.

The office, based on the information received from the National Weather Service-Tiyan Guam, said numerous showers are expected over Tinian and Saipan with scattered showers over Rota. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are then expected the remainder of the week.

Surf will remain hazardous through at least Friday as southwest winds of 20 to 25 knots and combined seas of 10 to 12 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft.

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog therefore is advising the general public and inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, to avoid sailing in these conditions.

Beachgoers and mariners are also advised to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches especially those facing south and west exposures as rip currents will be life-threatening. ***(PR)***

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BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday Samantha Birmingham Babauta. Through the many success and hard work that you have accomplished in life, we want you to enjoy, have a blessed day, and be safe on your very special day. We love you very much from your many friends and family.

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ELECTRONIC GAMING - TECHNICAL

EG Technical Manager	2
EG Technical Supervisor	6
Senior EG Technician	5
Lead EG Technician	6
EG Technician	6
Director of Electronic Gaming Technical	2
Assistant EG Technical Manager	2

ELECTRONIC GAMING ADMINISTRATION

EG Administration Manager	2

ELECTRONIC GAMING OPERATION

Director of Electronic Gaming Operation	2
Director of Casino Gaming System	2
EG Operation Manager	6
Assistant Operation Manager of Electronic Gaming	3
EG Supervisor	8
EG Attendant	7
Senior EG Attendant	3
Assistant Director of Casino Gaming System	1
Senior EG Technician	7

GAMING ANALYSIS

Director - Gaming Data Analysis	1
Assistant Director - Gaming Data Analysis	1
Manager - Gaming Data Analysis	3
Assistant Manager - Gaming Data Analysis	3
Gaming Data Analyst	3

GAMING PROJECTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Gaming Projects and Administration Manager	1
Gaming Projects and Administration Supervisor	1
Gaming Projects and Administration Coordinator	4

TABLE GAMES

Dealer III	107
Dealer II	75
Dealer I	51
Supervisor III	53
Supervisor II	75
Supervisor I	51
Pit Manager III	9
Pit Manager II	9
Pit Manager I	6
Director of Table Games	2
Table Games Shift Manager	4
Table Games Assistant Shift Manager	6

TABLE GAMES - CARD ROOM

Card Room Supervisor	5
Card Room Attendant	4
Director of Card Quality Assurance	2

TABLE GAMES TRAINING

Training Director	2
Training Supervisor	4
Training Manager	2

WORKFORCE PLANNING & LABOR OPTIMIZATION

Workforce Planning Data Analyst	2
Workforce Planning Supervisor	4
Workforce Planning Coordinator	4
Director of Workforce Planning & Labor Optimization	2
Workforce Planning & Labor Optimization Senior Manager	2
Workforce Planning & Labor Optimization Manager	2

SECURITY CONTROL ROOM

Control Room Supervisor	8
Control Room Operator	8
Control Room Manager	2

SECURITY

Access Control Supervisor	4
Access Control Officer	6
Access Control Manager	2
Director of Security	2
Assistant Director of Security	2
Administrative Assistant	6
Risk and Safety Supervisor	2
Risk Officer	2
Safety Officer	2
Risk and Safety Manager	2

SECURITY OPERATIONS

Senior Security Officer	10
Security Officer	47
Training Supervisor	4
Life Guard	8
Senior Security Shift Manager	5
Assistant Security Shift Manager	5
Training Manager	2
Security Supervisor	5

SURVEILLANCE

Surveillance Director	2
Surveillance Technical Supervisor	2
Surveillance Technician	6
Surveillance Technical Assistant Director	2
Senior Surveillance Shift Manager	6
Surveillance Training Manager	2
Surveillance Administrator	2
Senior Surveillance Shift Supervisor	7
Surveillance Senior Operator	3
Surveillance Operator	6
Surveillance Technical Coordinator	2

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EDITORIAL

Hacking the Democrats: What is Putin's real motive?

Democrats are bracing for another wave of embarrassing disclosures unleashed by what the U.S. intelligence community asserts is a Russian-engineered hacking attack. Guccifer 2.0, the hacker (hackers?) believed to be tied to Russian intelligence, posted on Aug. 12 internal Democratic Party documents with email addresses and cellphone numbers for nearly 200 lawmakers. Guccifer also talked of plans to turn over to WikiLeaks another trove of sensitive material hacked from Democratic Party computers. "Keep following … " the hacker said on Twitter. "Here I am! They'll have to try much harder to block me!"

If and when new leaks are publicized, that's sure to renew questions about what the Kremlin's motives might be. Is Russian President Vladimir Putin, as many believe, trying to pave the way for a Donald Trump presidency that would look the other way as the Kremlin tramples through Europe? Is he getting back at Hillary Clinton for what he insists was her meddling with Russian politics in 2011 while she was secretary of state?

Kremlinology 101 tells us that Moscow's true aims are usually heavily insulated and difficult to fish out. What is clear, however, is Putin's penchant for meddling with the politics of other countries. Case in point: what Germany calls the Lisa Affair.

In January, Russian state-owned media put out a story about Lisa, a 13-year-old Russian-German girl in Berlin who claimed she had been gang-raped by Arab migrants. The story whipped up animosity among thousands of ethnic Russians in Germany toward Prime Minister Angela Merkel, who has held fast on her open-door policy toward migrants and asylum seekers. There was just one problem with the story — German investigators determined it was false. German officials say the Kremlin's propaganda producers worked up the tale.

The motive? To weaken Merkel, an EU stalwart and a strong proponent for sanctioning Russian aggression in Ukraine, as she readied her party for regional elections.

Across Europe, the Kremlin has been wangling its way into politics to stoke Euroskepticism. In France, a Russian-owned bank lent Marine Le Pen's far-right, anti-EU National Front $11 million ahead of her 2017 presidential campaign. Elsewhere, Russia has nurtured ties with ultra-nationalist organizations such as Hungary's Jobbik Party, regarded in Europe as a neo-Nazi group.

Frothing up a Euroskeptic frenzy fits with Putin's overall aim of weakening the European Union and NATO, which he has always seen as an existential threat to Russia. If indeed the Kremlin is behind hacking into the Democratic Party, its motives aren't nearly as clear-cut. Putin openly accused Clinton of fomenting Russian protests against the former KGB leader in the winter of 2011, during Russian parliamentary elections. The hacking of assorted Democratic email accounts or databases could be Putin's way of firing back — or of flat-out intimidating her: See how easily I can mess with you? Or, he could be harboring visions of a Trump White House that

See HACKING on Page 11

The limits of more police oversight

By JACK WAGSTAFF
The News & Observer (Raleigh, N.C.)

Jack Wagstaff of Durham, North Carolina, is a law enforcement officer, a member of the Society of Evidence Based Policing and an executive staff member for the D.L. Forbes Youth Foundation. He wrote this for the News & Observer.

Elected officials, law enforcement executives and the public??need to acknowledge the lessons learned from another scathing report exposing the root of distrust between minority communities and the police: zero-tolerance policing.

Released last week, the Department of Justice's investigative report on the Baltimore Police Department connects the long-simmering distrust of Baltimore law enforcement to a legacy of government-sanctioned discrimination dating back to city's founding in 1729: "These tensions hardened during the 1990s and 2000s as the city responded to increasing violent crime rates by emphasizing an aggressive, 'zero tolerance' police strategy that prioritized making large numbers of stops, searches and arrests? — often for misdemeanor street offenses like loitering and disorderly conduct."

Let's use Baltimore to explain how zero-tolerance policing largely came to be. When Baltimore's violent crime rate jumped 53 percent between 1987 and 1994, the city planning committee identified 266 distinct neighborhoods to be the focus of a new city ordinance vigorously pushed by the mayor's office to reclaim public spaces by arresting the panhandlers and homeless. Soon after came the case of Patton v. Baltimore City (1994) in which the zero-tolerance arrest policy was ruled unconstitutional as it infringed on the homeless' First Amendment right to freedom of association by attacking their "status" as opposed to their "acts."

Whether police executives of the 1990s and onward considered a zero-tolerance strategy detrimental to crime control efforts in the long-term is irrelevant. Police work for elected officials, who saw the short-term gains in crime reduction offered by a zero-tolerance strategy as a potential electoral advantage. Whether zero-tolerance policies disenfranchised poor minority communities was irrelevant because their voice was small and their vote smaller. Sadly, elected officials put poor minority communities at odds with the police, who ironically were best positioned to see how the general failure of structural solutions disproportionately affect these communities.

This predicament is known as the democratic policing dilemma. Scholars suggest a democratic policing dilemma will persist so long as the potential for an electoral advantage clashes with technical expertise within the police profession. Knowing this dilemma exists, we must use the DOJ's latest report as an opportunity to learn about one another.

Elected officials need to know that shaping police policy for an electoral advantage undermines police expertise and is an overreach that can have devastating consequences. Law enforcement leaders need to understand the power of legitimacy to lead the exercise of social authority needed to make up for where and when instrumental crime control measures fall short. Fellow citizens need to recognize how the democratic policing dilemma has left police with some unwarranted blame.

As we move forward amid an abundance of passion for police reform, it's important we understand the limitations of more police oversight: The more police conduct improves, the harder it is to improve by good intentions alone. Perhaps evidence-based policing is the technical solution capable of compensating for where structural solutions fall short.

The inherent transparency and empirical validity of evidence-based practices may reduce the gap between democratic deliberation and decisive deployment of force.

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Daughter of immigrants an American success story

By WILLIAM MCKENZIE
The Dallas Morning News

William McKenzie is editor of "The Catalyst: A Journal of Ideas from the Bush Institute." He wrote this for the Dallas Morning News. Readers may email him at wmckenzie@bushcenter.org

Jannet Barrera beat the odds.

The daughter of legal immigrant parents from Mexico who came to the United States without finishing elementary school, Jannet graduated from Texas A&M University in May. This month, the outgoing, committed, 22-year old starts a graduate program in public health at her alma mater.

In 2012, she was among the top 10 students in her class at Sunset High School in Dallas, where she was student body president. Her parents, especially her father, did not understand her passion for education. But Tony Tovar did. He was Sunset's principal at the time, and he told me about her. Soon, Jannet and I began talking about her past and future.

She had benefited from mentoring in early high school and started advancing academically and as a leader. By the time she finished Sunset, she had received a full-ride Gates Millennium Scholarship to attend A&M, as well as scholarships from A&M itself. The Gates award is one of the nation's most prestigious scholarships.

Yet, Jannet did not know if her father would even attend her high school graduation. She only realized he was in the auditorium when she heard him call out her name as she received her diploma. After her mother watched Jannet deliver a speech to the senior class that evening and heard of her accomplishments, she told Jannet she finally understood why her daughter spent so much time at school.

Jannet's path was not going to be easy. During her first semester in college, she nearly left A&M, where she started as a member of the Corps of Cadets. She quickly left the Corps and even picked up papers to transfer to UT-Arlington.

Her mother wanted her closer to home. Her father would not speak to her about college. And, like many students who are among the first generations of their families to attend college, the high school star felt like she didn't belong. She kept to herself and her handful of similar friends and studied.

Not until she went home at Christmas did she understand why she needed to stay at A&M. Her nephews and nieces were decked out in Aggie t-shirts. One had even painted her bedroom maroon. Looking into their faces, Jannet knew she had to return to Aggieland.

After she did, she joined a service sorority, became active with first-generation-college students, and kept excelling in her classes. (Academic achievement had always been the easy part.) She soon was on her way, majoring in community health and even traveling to the Dominican Republic, New Zealand and Australia.

Now, Jannet is entering grad school and has her eyes on earning a doctorate. At the same time, she is working full-time with Head Start in Bryan and starting on a certificate in non-profit management from the Bush School of Government at Texas A&M.

Jannet's story matters beyond her personal triumph. The domestic progress of the U.S. depends significantly upon students like Jannet. What we can learn from her journey will instruct the many schools with rising populations of children from immigrant families. Her pathway into the American mainstream also reminds us that those students can help grow America, strengthen our communities and lead our institutions.

Hispanic students are certainly not the only ones from immigrant families or the first generations in their families to attend college. But, in many states, they are a significant bloc of such students.

In Texas alone, more than half of public school students come from Hispanic families. Demographic trends are clear that those numbers will only keep growing. New Census data shows that nearly 75 percent of Texas counties saw their white student populations under age 19 decline from 2010 to 2015.

If schools are successful in graduating students like Jannet Barrera, the larger society will reap the social, cultural and economic benefits. If schools can't move them into the mainstream, the nation will lose their potential and face an economic problem.

Dallas Federal Reserve Bank President Robert Kaplan pinpointed this reality recently: "If you've got educational attainment levels that are lagging, when you look out 10 and 15 years, all things being equal, it will tend to pull down the economic growth and economic prosperity of the city, and then the state. That's also true of the country."

The assimilation of immigrants and their children goes to the heart of our perennial and often nasty debate over immigration. Integration is so crucial because if we know how students like Jannet can make it, we will discover how to tap the creativity, skills and dreams of the hard-working, aspiring people who want to come to our country or who only recently arrived.

Some may think we shouldn't cultivate those talents, but America's labor force long has depended upon immigrants and their families. And they will become even more important as the population ages in states like Texas. Steve Murdock, former head of the U.S. Census Bureau who now teaches sociology at Rice University, says two phenomena are happening simultaneously: Texas' population is becoming more Hispanic and younger while more and more Anglo baby boomers ease into their senior years.

Of course, during powerful periods of nativism we haven't welcomed and assimilated immigrants. Resistance to immigrants has happened mostly during times of rapid economic and social changes, much like we are experiencing now. But Jannet's story shows us how we can benefit from the upward trajectory of immigrant families. As she told me during one of our interviews, her story is an American story.

To their credit, numerous universities are trying to figure out how to bolster students whose families have no prior connection to college. A&M creates an opportunity for first generation students to meet and talk with each other through its Century Scholars and Regents programs.

The value in those programs, Jannet says, is that students from similar backgrounds get to hear each other's stories. "Many stories don't get told without opportunities like this," she explained as she looked back at her last four years. "There is a lot to deal with, while trying to face other school pressures."

The story that most sticks in my mind from interviewing Jannet over the last four years is about students struggling in a science class her first semester. After one particularly tough exam, the girl next to her said, "Oh, well, I will get my dad to pay for this class again next semester." Jannet, who had scored a 98 on the test, had no earthly way to relate to that comment. That's when she started to retreat within herself.

At the University of North Texas at Dallas, professors are trained to look for students who might start to slip away. The 2,600-person student body at the southern Dallas campus is largely comprised of first-generation students.

Bob Mong, the school's president, says professors look for early signs of trouble and alert trained advisers when a student appears to be falling behind. An adviser then works with the student on a plan to improve. Those specialists are keys to the progress of first-generation students. So are campus-based organizations like Girls Helping Girls, which helps students connect with each other. The goal of these efforts, which you might call the gritty work of assimilation, is to keep students from dropping out. When students do leave early, Mong explains, the school uses data to understand why.

Structure is another key way to guide first-generation students toward graduation. UNT Dallas studied how Guttman Community College in New York narrows course offerings for first-generation students. Instead of providing a wide range of class options that can leave some students with 120 hours and no degree, Guttman's limited choices help keep students on track. Mong says that strategy prompted UNT Dallas to create a block schedule system, where students sign up for a clear set of courses.

Students can get a running start at a degree from a four-year institution by earning college credit while still in high school. For example, UNT Dallas recruits from Trini Garza Early College High School at Mountain View Community College, where students earn college credits.

Of course, long before college, school districts must make sure students are on track to graduate from high school. That starts in elementary school, and schools can't do that if they don't know how well their students are performing. Elementary and secondary schools need information from reliable, independent exams to keep on top of student achievement.

Campuses also need to engage parents who may be reluctant to see their children attend college. After one piece I wrote about Jannet, I received a call from Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School in the Dallas school district. The campus regularly works with families that are relatively new to the U.S., connecting families of graduates with families of current students to help parents through the process of letting go as their daughters prepare for college. As one staffer said, "We have Jannet Barreras all over this campus."

To be sure, there is the perennial issue of the responsibility of students to show up at class, do the work and graduate. This is the role of what University of Pennsylvania psychology professor Angela Duckworth calls passion and perseverance. The author of "Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance," Duckworth has studied why some people reach their goals and others do not. She writes that those two elements are why some people reach "world-class excellence."

Two years ago I asked one of Jannet's A&M advisers whether she thought anything could knock Jannet off course. She replied that, sure, life events can do that to any of us, but she didn't see it because Jannet was so extremely determined. Teresa Sterling saw Jannet's determination as early as the ninth grade at Sunset. Sterling, the school's student council adviser, told me Jannet had a passion for serving others. No matter what challenges were thrown her way, Sterling said, Jannet kept going.

Duckworth writes that passion and perseverance are both important, but they don't just strike like an unexpected thunderbolt. They take time to develop. She calls it "fostering a passion" and taking time to develop that passion and deepen it over a lifetime.

Jannet Barrera's story may read like that of a superheroine, but that's not the point. What we need are systems that can identify students like Jannet, cultivate their talents, and keep them moving toward college degrees, including two-year community college certificates.

That way, we can grow more students from first-generation families. The assimilation of such students might ease the anxiety of those who worry about a changing America. As Jannet's journey shows, her story is at heart the American story.

HACKING

From Page 10

would prove naive and pliable.

If it's the latter, Trump should think twice about a Trump-Putin reset in U.S.-Russian relations. Maybe Trump envisions a relationship between two magnates — a brass tacks, let's-get-down-to-business partnership built on pragmatism rather than ideals. What Trump probably doesn't realize is that Putin's skill set reaches far beyond the corporate boardroom: He's an artful tactician who relies on subterfuge and no-holds-barred aggressiveness to get what he wants.

"If we could get along with Russia, wouldn't that be a good thing, instead of a bad thing?" Trump told supporters in Pennsylvania earlier this month.

Somewhere in the recesses of the Kremlin, Putin must have been salivating.

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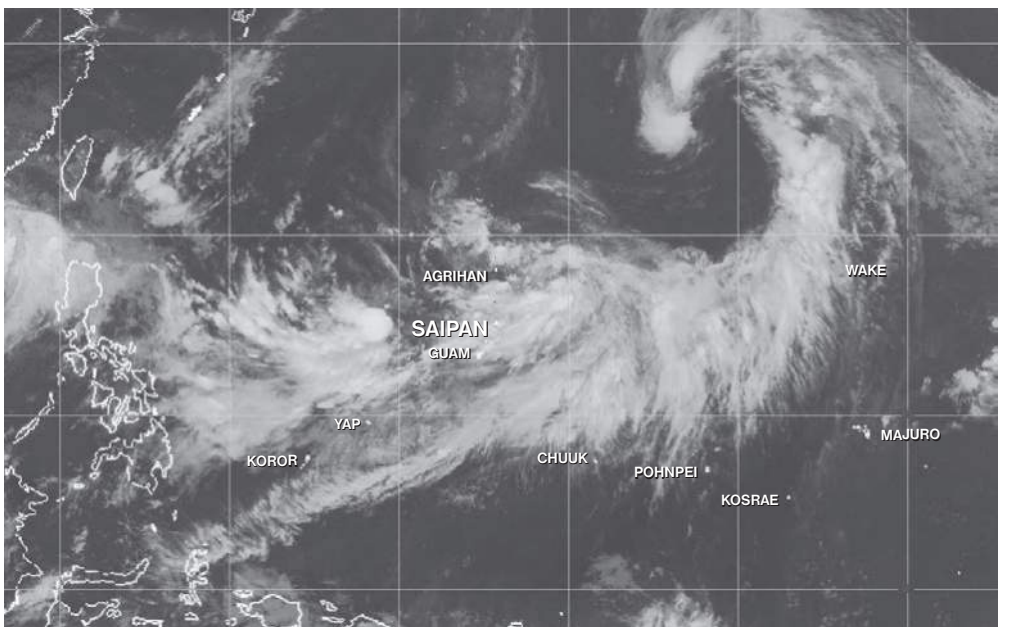
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Cloudy and breezy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly sunny and breezy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:03 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An active monsoon trough stretches across the Northwest Pacific with the trough axis cutting across the northern Marianas. A circulation could be found on the trough northeast of Pagan near 18N148E. Satellite imagery showed an area of showers and thunderstorms developing south to southwest of this circulation. The activity is large enough that it is pushing southward across the local area as evidence by the radar. The radar shows scattered showers across Tinian and Saipan. A line of showers was just south of Guam. Scattered showers will prevail at least for part of the day across the local area. Lightning was detected early this morning just west of Saipan and Tinian so isolated thunderstorms are possible today.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Heavy rain	76 / 80 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	81 / 88 °F
Yap	Heavy rain	81 / 86 °F
Chuuk	Partly cloudy	80 / 87 °F
Pohnpei	Partly cloudy	76 / 86 °F
Kosrae	Afternoon clouds	80 / 87 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	80 / 87 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Mostly sunny	45 / 56 °F
Beijing	Heavy rain	69 / 75 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly cloudy	80 / 86 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	74 / 84 °F
London	Partly cloudy	60 / 74 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	63 / 87 °F
Manila	Heavy rain	79 / 85 °F
Melbourne	Mostly sunny	47 / 66 °F
Miami	Partly cloudy	81 / 88 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	74 / 89 °F
Osaka	Thunderstorms	74 / 93 °F
Paris	Morning clouds	67 / 78 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	78 / 89 °F
Rome	Partly cloudy	66 / 86 °F
Salem	Sunny	58 / 98 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	56 / 69 °F
Seoul	Mostly cloudy	75 / 92 °F
Tokyo	Partly sunny	78 / 89 °F
Washington, DC	Showers	72 / 88 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
1:30 AM	LOW TIDE	0.95 Feet
6:45 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.96 Feet
1:49 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.25 Feet
8:25 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.96 Feet

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:03 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	6:30 PM	5:34 AM
Friday	7:18 PM	6:31 AM
Saturday	8:06 PM	7:29 AM
Sunday	8:53 PM	8:26 AM
Monday	9:41 PM	9:24 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 10, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
OZ6063	5:15pm	8:35pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ6053	10:35am	4:05pm	4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/2925	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Nominate a community hero for 2016 Bridge of Light Award

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is pleased to announce that nominations are now being accepted for the 2016 Bridge of Light Award.

The Bridge of Light Award is given each year to honor the accomplishments and sacrifices of one extraordinary individual who has worked diligently to provide safety for the community, to work to end domestic violence and sexual assault, and to be a "bridge of light" for victims and survivors in the CNMI.

"We have met victims and survivors over the years who have described those who helped them as 'bridges of light'" said Maisie B. Tenorio, NMCADSV executive director. "We also recognize the incredible impact one caring, dedicated individual can have on the lives of others which is why we would like to honor one of them with this award."

"But first we need some glowing nominations," added Tenorio.

Nominations may be submitted by a member, representative, and/or volunteer of NMCADSV and/or the Family Violence Task Force; a victim or survivor; or an employee, representative, and/or volunteer at eligible CNMI agencies, organizations, or offices. To verify if an agency, organization, or office is eligible to nominate, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email Kiki Benjamin at kiki@endviolencenmi.org.

The nominee may be a service provider, representative, or volunteer at one or more eligible agencies, organizations or offices in the CNMI, and who has been there for a minimum of one year. The nominee must also show dedication and effort in the areas of leadership, service, advocacy for victims, prevention, community education or mobilization, and resource development.

The recipient of the Bridge of Light Award will be presented during the upcoming Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation Signing Ceremony. Past recipients include the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services Rota advocate Mildred Sikebert, Department of Public Safety officer Flora Aguon, and Karidat Social Services executive director, Lauri B. Ogumoro,

Those interested in submitting a nomination may request for a nomination form by emailing kiki@endviolencenmi.org. Completed nominations forms may be submitted electronically or to the NMCADSV Office in Springs Plaza near SM Market and Bank of Hawaii on Middle Road. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9am to 3pm. The deadline to submit completed nomination forms is Sunday, September 18, 2016.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence at (670) 234-3878. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mildred Sikebert, a long-time advocate from Rota, receives a congratulatory embrace from NMCADSV board chairp Eulalia Villagomez before accepting the 2015 Bridge of Light Award as past 2014 BOLA recipient Lauri B. Ogumoro, far left, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, second from left, and 2013 BOLA recipient Flora Aguon, far right, look on. This was part of the 2015 Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation Signing Ceremony last October.

FOR SAFETY VIOLATIONS OFF OAHU:

Coast Guard terminates voyages of 3 commercial fishing vessels

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The crew of the USCGC *Galveston Island* (WPB-1349), with an officer from the Cook Islands Ministry of Marine Resources engaged in a professional exchange, approach a commercial vessel off Honolulu to conduct a fisheries boarding Aug. 11, 2016.

HONOLULU—The crew of the USCGC *Galveston Island* (WPB-1349) terminated the voyages of the 79-foot *Lady Jackie*, the 62-foot commercial fishing vessel *Blue Sky*, and the 82-foot *Jennifer Lynn* for hazardous conditions and safety violations during boardings off Honolulu since Aug. 8.

"Our experience shows that hazardous safety conditions like these often lead to marine casualties with loss of life and that is why we take enforcement so seriously and will turn vessels back to the dock," said Lt. Ryan Ball, commanding officer, *Galveston Island*. "Mariners need to understand that they must meet the regulations before putting to sea. It is a matter of safety and ultimately we want to see everyone return home after every voyage."

All three vessels were escorted by the *Galveston Island* crew to the pier in Honolulu. Coast Guard Sector Honolulu personnel are attending the vessels to ensure all discrepancies are rectified prior to any new voyages.

The boarding team from the cutter found discrepancies aboard the vessels including inoperable high water alarms, inoperable and/or expired survival craft, expired distress signals, an expired emergency position indicating radio beacon, a lack of or unserviceable life jackets, crews untrained in first aid or emergency procedures and a failure to conduct regular drills. In one case there was excessive fuel in the bilge and in another the vessel's commercial fishing vessel safety decal and their registration are both expired.

Mandatory dockside safety exams must be completed for all commercial fishing vessels that operate beyond 3 nautical miles from the territorial sea baseline. These exams are free and any discrepancies found at the dock are unlikely to result in fines. Fishing vessel that are required to carry National Marine Fisheries Service observers are required to have a valid decal (un-expired). Mariners interested in scheduling commercial fishing vessel safety exams may contact Charlie Medlicott at 808-535-3417 or Charles.J.Medlicott@uscg.mil.

In addition to the two terminations the crew of the *Galveston Island* boarded 19 other vessels in the area during their six-day patrol. The crew also hosted a marine resources officer, as part of a professional exchange with the Cook Islands. The Cook Islands is a self-governing island country in the South Pacific Ocean in free association with New Zealand. It comprises 15 islands whose total land area is 92.7 sq. miles. The Cook Islands' Exclusive Economic Zone, however, covers 690,000 sq. miles of ocean and borders the U.S. EEZ near American Samoa. The professional exchange was conducted to strengthen partnerships and examine both nations' approach to fisheries enforcement and safety requirements aboard vessels operating in the Pacific.

The *Galveston Island* is a 110-foot Island class patrol boat home-ported in Honolulu. The cutter is a multi-mission platform with a primary operation area of the main Hawaiian Islands. ***(PR)***

Saipan Community School open house today

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Community School is a private Christian school that was established in 1976 as the first Protestant school on the island.

Saipan Community School is hosting its annual open house and parent orientation night scheduled today, Aug. 18, 6pm. Parents and students are encouraged to attend as well as members of the community interested in learning more about our school.

The open house will include a brief introduction to the SCS teachers, staff, and administration. Students and parents should meet in the church at 6pm for a general assembly before proceeding to individual classrooms. Teachers will be available in their classrooms to discuss goals for the school year, curriculum, and co-curricular activities such as Math Court, STEM Fair, NJFL, Spelling Bee, PGFC, and Mock Trial as well as athletic events.

SCS is a private Christian school that was established in 1976 as the first Protestant school on the island. SCS offers a U.S. curriculum taught in English and has been consistently recognized over the years for developing academic excellence and character in a family friendly atmosphere.

It is our mission at SCS to prepare elementary and junior high school students for further studies and to help them become productive members of society by providing a quality academic education in a Christian environment, emphasizing the importance of integrity, morality, civic responsibility, a positive work ethic, and a proper relationship with God and fellow men and women.

If you are interested in learning more about SCS and/or the learning opportunities we offer from kindergarten through 8th grade, please contact SCS principal Amanda Dunn via email: principal@saipancommunityschool.com, call our offices at 234-6687, or come visit us on Beach Road in Susupe. ***(PR)***

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Rubbermaid 40 Piece Easy Find Lids $28.95

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Oster 1.1cu.ft. Microwave $118.95

$879.95

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Essential Home Santiago 5 Piece Dining Set $199.95

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FWCC marks 32 years of working to end violence against women

The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre last Monday marked 32 years of working to end violence against women and more that three decades of struggle to change attitudes and behaviors about why it happens.

The milestone was reached today among other activists and organizations working in the area of eliminating violence against women from around the Pacific who are meeting as a Network at the Warwick Resort in Sigatoka, Fiji.

The discussions and sharing emerging from about 70 members attending the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women (PWNAVAW) meeting, has reaffirmed the vital role the FWCC continues to play in strengthening and supporting the work around the Pacific to end violence against women.

The FWCC was founded in 1984 on feminist human rights principles, specifically focused on eliminating violations of women's human rights in response to the growing problem of rape and domestic violence and the patriarchal attitudes that blamed women for these violations of their human rights.

A group of local and expatriate women began informal meetings to look into the problem and what could be done about it.

Building on the work of other organizations, such as the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), a group of women conducted research into rape in Fiji. Based on that research and the increasing media reports of rape, the women began meeting as a collective twice a month at the YWCA in Suva from early 1984, as the Women's Crisis Centre (WCC). By mid-1984, the Centre's existence was formalized.

"The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre was set up based on women's experiences of violence," says Shamima Ali, who has been FWCC Coordinator for 30 years.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants of the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women pose for a group photo.

Speaking about the struggle to keep the FWCC going, including expanding the reach of its programmes, Ali told Network members: "This work has to done without fear. You need to keep pushing the boundaries and if one approach fails you can go back and re-strategize, but you must never stop trying."

By the 1990s, the FWCC was recognized as a leader in the Pacific in the area of eliminating violence against women. In 1992 the FWCC facilitated and hosted the First Pacific Regional Meeting on Violence Against Women in Suva comprising women from 15 Pacific Island countries.

The inaugural meeting led to the establishment of the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women. Since then, it has served as a support mechanism for women in the Pacific who are working in the area of gender-based violence and human rights. This, in turn, is reflected in the emergence of several new counseling centers in the Pacific region including in Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tuvalu, and Kiribati.

Every four years, the FWCC convenes a meeting of the Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women (PWNAVAW), with this year's meeting being the seventh since the Network was founded.

When the FWCC was being formed in the mid-1980s, rape and domestic violence were not topics of public discussion but the issue could not be ignored once the women who founded the Crisis Centre began raising the issue in the media and responding to insensitive media reporting on violence against women.

As the Centre began responding to rape and domestic violence, women started bringing their children along, and soon enough the issue of child physical and sexual abuse was also brought to the attention of the wider public.

Since then, FWCC has grown from a purely volunteer effort by Fijian feminists and expatriate supporters to an independent organization that has been able to raise millions of dollars in donor aid to fund the difficult work to end violence against women and children.

This has also involved extending the FWCC's work to help other Pacific women establish their own women's human rights organizations and carrying out training programmes of its own for other organizations within Fiji and the Pacific.

Following on from the setting up of the PWNAVAW in 1992, the FWCC launched its flagship month-long Regional Training Programme (RTP) in 1995.

The RTP is held up to twice a year to train women's human rights workers, social workers, police and prisons personnel and other responders to violence against women from across the Pacific.

Training topics include gender and patriarchy, violence against women and human rights, including counseling for survivors of violence, using the media for advocacy and allied topics.

The FWCC has for most of its existence, received support from the government of Australia through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, although funding at the current level is still being discussed.

The challenge now for the FWCC and the organisations and activists around the Pacific who look to it for guidance and support is to find ways to continue its services to the women and children of Fiji and the Pacific, including diversifying funding and pushing Pacific governments to take more responsibility for funding working to eliminate violence against women. ***(PR)***

Pacific Community Maritime Boundaries officer selected for leadership program

SUVA, Fiji—The Pacific Community's Maritime Boundaries Technical Officer, Emily Artack, has been selected to represent Fiji as part of a delegation from 12 different countries to participate in the prestigious International Visitors Leadership Program on Law of the Sea and Maritime Security in the United States.

The three-week program which starts this week in Washington, D.C. will cover specific objectives including the exploration of how customary law applies in the South China Sea and the Pacific; assessing the roles of international stakeholders; observing interagency coordination and approaches to maritime security operations and discussing the United States and multi-lateral policy and cooperative efforts in South China Sea territorial and maritime disputes.

The international program will also take the delegation to Baltimore, New York, Florida, Seattle and Honolulu to meet with professional counterparts and explore various perspectives on the impact of the Law of the Sea Convention.

"This visit is an exciting opportunity for me to meet with representatives from the various organizations based in the United States and learn more about their approaches to law of the sea and maritime security operations, as well as learn more about the role of various organizations based in the cities we will be visiting and I will establish close networks between them and the Pacific countries," Artack said.

Each year over 4,500 participants from all over the world are selected by U.S. embassies to travel to the United States through the U.S. Department of States premier professionals exchange program.

In her professional capacity as SPC's Maritime Boundaries Technical Officer, Artack has actively assisted Pacific Island countries to negotiate 14 maritime agreements and treaties in the region and to formalise their maritime boundaries and deposit this information with the United Nations, with a recent example being the Republic of Marshall Islands who officially declared their maritime borders to the United Nations in April this year.

"This in an incredible opportunity for Emily and we congratulate her on this well deserved assignment," Pacific Community Director-General Dr. Colin Tukuitonga said.

"Ms Artack is a valuable member of our team, and is also a recipient of SPC's Jimmie Rodgers Emerging Leader Award which recognises the significant contribution and leadership she has demonstrated in the realisation of SPC's vision and mission in serving our Pacific members," Dr Tukuitonga added.

The International Visitors Leadership Program will run from Aug. 15 to Sept. 3 this year. ***(PR)***

WAP staff to visit Tinian on Aug. 26-27

The CNMI Department of Public Works, Division of Energy Office is happy to announce staff from the Weatherization Assistance Program will be on Tinian on Friday, Aug. 26, from 9am to 4pm at Tinian Mayor's Office and on Saturday, Aug. 27, from 9am to 12pm at Tinian Gymnasium to provide on-site assistance regarding the application process and the program services available to qualified low-income eligible residents.

With the services available, residents are able to make the necessary upgrades to improve the efficiency of their homes by replacing inefficient lightings and appliances with ones that are qualified Energy-Efficient, Energy Star® rated lightings and appliances that lower energy use to reduce high energy bills.

To avail of the program services, applications are available at the Tinian Mayor's Office or you may obtain an application for services by downloading a copy of an application from our Website at www.cnmienergy.com.

For additional information, you may also contact our office at 664-4480/4481 or fax 664-4483, Monday-Friday, except weekends and holidays, from 7:30am to 11:30am and from 12:30pm to 4:30pm.

Thelma B. Inos, Energy director, encourages everyone in the CNMI to make their homes more energy-efficient by replacing inefficient lightings and appliances with qualified energy-efficient, ENERGY STAR® rated products.

Funding opportunity for these programs is made possible by the U.S. Department of Energy through a grant from the Weatherization Assistance Program. ***(PR)***

Business

Casino mogul Wynn readies lavish new Macau resort

MACAU (AP)—From a pair of giant golden dragons encircling a vast man-made lagoon to phoenix and cloud motifs inside, Steve Wynn's Macau resort brims with auspicious Chinese symbolism.

The U.S. casino mogul will need luck on his side as launches his $4.2 billion Wynn Palace project in the gambling hub on China's southern coast, where growth is downshifting after years of turbocharged expansion.

Macau, a former Portuguese colony near Hong Kong, is the world's biggest casino market, with revenues four times those of the Las Vegas Strip. But China's slowing economy and President Xi Jinping's crackdown on corruption are crimping the lavish spending by Chinese high-rollers that powered Macau's boom years, putting casino operators under pressure. Monthly casino revenues have declined for 26 straight months and the market has shrunk by a third to $28 billion.

In an interview Tuesday ahead of the Wynn Palace's opening next Monday, Wynn acknowledged that Macau's glory years are over, but he was still optimistic.

"What took place here in previous years was an anomaly," Wynn said. "The amount of revenue, the rate of growth was unprecedented and historic and in many cases not just extraordinary but outrageous."

Growth now is "representing more normal patterns of human behavior, and that applies as well financially." Current opportunities are "wonderful," he said.

China's Communist Party leaders want Macau to give up its reliance on so-called VIP gamblers, who often have been government officials. Instead they want more "non-gaming" attractions to lure middle-class families and help turn the city of 567,000 into a prominent Asian tourism destination with a more sustainable growth model.

Signaling their resolve to rein in gambling growth, Macau's regulators last week granted Wynn 150 new gambling tables, far fewer than the 400 the company had applied for and less than the 250 given to other recently launched casino projects. In a break with the past, none of the new tables are earmarked by the company for VIP gamblers.

Wynn said he was satisfied with that number.

World Trade Center mall reopens, shows progress since 9/11

NEW YORK (AP)—The reopening—and reinvention—of the World Trade Center mall Tuesday reflects how much lower Manhattan has changed since the 9/11 attacks.

Once a scene of massive destruction, the area is now a vibrant one of office towers and upscale hotels, with three times the number of residents as before the attacks, weekday employees in industries beyond Wall Street, and millions of tourists visiting every year.

Shops from Apple to Forever 21 to H&M to John Varvatos will serve the increasingly diverse area where real estate experts say people have been eager for new stores and restaurants. The new spaces also let customers tap into technology, as some retailers use the space for their latest ideas.

The location is a "symbol of hope, opportunity, progress and perseverance," said Bill Hecht, chief operating officer of Westfield Corp.'s U.S. division. Westfield manages the retail properties, while the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey owns the real estate.

More than 100 stores will occupy the 365,000-square-foot center, with about 60 opening Tuesday and the rest by the winter holiday season. Ford Motor Co. is set to open this fall the first FordHub, a showroom for innovations that's not a dealership. Shoe purveyor Aldo Group Inc. is using the opening to launch an app feature for its store, which will be rolled out to other locations. Digital billboards include a 280-foot-long one.

Food options include Eataly's second Manhattan location, which features foods from Italy and coffee and gelato bars.

It stretches along a four-block underground network that spans the bases of three office towers. While mostly below street level, light beams in through the windows of the winged Oculus, designed by Santiago Calatrava, that top the transportation hub of 13 subway trains and river ferries. More than 300,000 commuters use it on a daily basis, many for jobs beyond finance in advertising and media.

Ford says it will have a fully autonomous car by 2021

DETROIT (AP)—Ford Motor Co. intends to have a fully driverless vehicle—no steering wheel, no pedals—on the road within five years. The car will initially be used for commercial ride-hailing or ride-sharing services, with sales to consumers coming later.

"This is a transformational moment in our industry and it is a transformational moment for our company," said CEO Mark Fields, as he announced the plan Tuesday at Ford's Silicon Valley campus in Palo Alto, California.

Ford's approach to the autonomous car breaks from many other companies, like Mercedes-Benz and Tesla Motors, which plan to gradually add self-driving capability to traditional cars. Just last month, BMW AG, Intel Corp. and the automotive camera maker Mobileye announced a plan to put an autonomous vehicle with a steering wheel on the road by 2021.

Instead, Ford is taking the same approach as Alphabet Inc.'s Google, which supports moving directly to self-driving cars once the technology is perfected.

"We abandoned the stepping-stone approach of driver-assist technologies and decided we were going to take the full leap," said Raj Nair, Ford's chief technical officer.

Nair says Ford will continue developing systems that assist the driver, like automatic emergency braking or lane departure warning. But he said semi-autonomous systems that can operate the car but then cede control back to the driver when an obstacle is encountered are actually dangerous in Ford's view. Engineers couldn't figure out how to make sure drivers stay engaged and ready to take over. So, Ford decided to remove the driver altogether.

"We learned that to achieve full autonomy, we have to take a completely different path," Nair said.

Jeremy Carlson, a senior analyst with IHS Automotive, says he doesn't know of another automaker that is taking Ford's approach. But there are challenges either way, he said. Riders may have a hard time trusting fully autonomous cars, for example, but semi-autonomous cars can be dangerous because drivers may not understand what the vehicles can and cannot do.

Nation

Monstrous California wildfire drives over 80,000 from homes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It tore through canyons and flew over ridges in every direction with astonishing speed, sending flames 80 feet skyward and forcing tens of thousands to flee their homes.

The Southern California wildfire that began as a small midmorning patch of flame next to Interstate 15 in the Cajon Pass had by Tuesday's end turned into a 28-square-mile monster that had burned an untold number of homes.

"This moved so fast," said Darren Dalton, 51, who along with his wife and son had to get out of his house in Wrightwood, a mountain town of 4,500 popular with skiers in winter. "It went from 'have you heard there's a fire?' to 'mandatory evacuation' before you could take it all in. This is a tight little community up here. Always in rally mode. Suddenly it's a ghost town."

Shannon Anderson of Blue Mountain Farms horse ranch in Phelan had to load up and evacuate 40 horses as the fire approached. "It's raining ash," Anderson said, breathing hard.

Suspected arson

A man was arrested Monday on 17 counts of arson that destroyed more than 175 homes, businesses and other structures over the weekend.

Source: AP, Los Angeles Times
Graphic: Staff, TNS

They were among more than 82,000 people from over 34,000 homes were under evacuation orders, said Eric Sherwin of the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

Devouring ranchlands 60 miles east of Los Angeles, the blaze surged west to the Los Angeles County line and east to the Mojave Desert in the east. The damages were likely to be vast and serious once they could be properly measured.

Sherwin confirmed Tuesday night that it had burned at least a dozen buildings, some of them homes. He said he had seen all kinds of things burn, including the Summit Inn, a historic diner near I-15, he said.

"I'm looking up here and I'm seeing buses, I'm seeing outbuildings, I'm seeing houses," he said.

It was among several large fires burning up and down California, from Shasta County in the far north to Camp Pendleton Marine base in San Diego County. It came after several steady weeks of major fires around the state, even though the full force of fire season has yet to arrive.

But even longtime observers were surprised by the staggering speed of the Southern California fire.

It prompted Gov. Jerry Brown to declare a state of emergency in the area within hours of it breaking out, a move that more often comes after a blaze has done several days of destruction.

In flooded Louisiana, a cleanup and a search for bodies

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—Authorities went door to door and car to car to check for bodies Tuesday, and homeowners began the heartbreaking task of gathering up soaked family photos and mucking out houses dank with bayou mud, as the floodwaters started to recede across parts of southern Louisiana.

Even as the water fell in some areas, it was rising in other places downstream, where people furiously filled sandbags and fled to shelters.

Officials painted a stark picture of the crisis so far: at least 40,000 homes damaged and 11 people killed in some of the worst flooding in Louisiana history, touched off by as much as 2 feet of rain in 48 hours. Over 30,000 people have been rescued since Friday, with more being brought to safety by the hour.

There were scattered reports of looting, and Gov. John Bel Edwards said parishes with widespread damage would be placed under curfew beginning Tuesday night.

The smell of muddy water hung heavy in the air as people donned surgical masks and began the back-breaking job of ripping out soggy carpet, drywall and insulation. They cleaned out spiders and cockroaches that had bubbled up through the sewer grates.

Raymond Lieteau, 48, returned to his home in the Woodlands neighborhood of Baton Rouge to survey the damage Tuesday and begin cleaning up. The water line on a mirror showed that he had more than 5 feet of water inside his home.

Trump accuses Clinton of 'bigotry,' says she opposes police

WEST BEND, Wis. (AP)—Donald Trump on Tuesday accused rival Hillary Clinton of "bigotry" and being "against the police," claiming that she and other Democrats have "betrayed the African American community" and pandered for votes.

"We reject the bigotry of Hillary Clinton, which panders to and talks down to communities of color and sees them only as votes—that's all they care about," the GOP nominee said in remarks delivered not far from Milwaukee—the latest city to be rocked by violence in the wake of a police shooting.

Trump, who is lagging behind in the polls, accused Clinton of being on the side of the rioters, declaring: "Our opponent Hillary would rather protect the offender than the victim."

"The riots and destruction that have taken place in Milwaukee is an assault on the right of all citizens to live in security and to live in peace," he said.

Clinton campaign spokeswoman Jennifer Palmieri responded with a statement early Wednesday accusing Trump of being the bigot instead.

"With each passing Trump attack, it becomes clearer that his strategy is just to say about Hillary Clinton what's true of himself. When people started saying he was temperamentally unfit, he called Hillary the same. When his ties to the Kremlin came under scrutiny, he absurdly claimed that Hillary was the one who was too close to Putin. Now he's accusing her of bigoted remarks -- We think the American people will know which candidate is guilty of the charge," she said.

Asia

US Army chief visits China amid missile system tensions

BEIJING (AP)—The U.S. Army chief of staff told Chinese officials during a visit Tuesday that China should not feel threatened by American ally South Korea's decision to deploy a powerful U.S. missile defense system.

Gen. Mark A. Milley met with his Chinese counterpart, General Li Zuocheng, and other senior People's Liberation Army leaders amid strong Chinese protests over the decision to base the U.S. Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, system south of the South Korean capital, Seoul.

Milley reiterated the American position that the defense system is intended to destroy possible North Korean missiles and not to track missiles inside China. Milley said THAAD is not a threat to China, the U.S. Army said in a statement.

Chinese state media have published daily attacks against the U.S. and South Korea over the missile defense system, and China has canceled events involving South Korean entertainers. China also appears to be withholding support at the United Nations for condemnations of North Korea's missile programs.

AP

U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, left, and China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Gen. Li Zuocheng, right, salute during a welcome ceremony at the Bayi Building in Beijing, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2016.

Milley's visit also comes amid friction following an international arbitration panel's ruling last month that invalidated China's claim to virtually the entire South China Sea. China angrily rejected the verdict and has vowed to continue developing man-made islands that the U.S. says have exacerbated tensions in the strategically crucial region.

According to the U.S. Army statement, Milley told Chinese officials the U.S. was committed to following international rules "and encouraged the Chinese to do the same as a way to reduce regional tensions."

Indonesian flees Filipino captors, found trapped in fishnet

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An Indonesian sailor escaped Wednesday from his Abu Sayyaf abductors in the southern Philippines after they threatened to behead him, officials said.

Sixteen other foreign hostages, including nine Indonesians, remain captives of the violent Muslim extremist group in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

Maj. Filemon Tan, a regional military spokesman, said Mohammad Sayfan, 28, escaped in a mangrove area in Sulu province after he was threatened with beheading. He was rescued by local residents who found him floating and trapped in fishnets along the shoreline.

Sayfan was one of seven crewmembers abducted from a tugboat near the Philippine border in June.

Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines agreed in May to carry out coordinated patrols. The three are concerned the kidnappings, piracy and other crime could undermine commerce in the region.

A total of 24 Indonesian have been kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf this year, highlighting weak security in the Celebes Sea that borders Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Ten of the hostages were freed after ransoms were reportedly paid.

The Philippines says it has stepped up a military offensive against the militants, who earlier this year beheaded two Canadians it had held since September.

Tan said that besides the Indonesians, five Malaysians, one Norwegian, a Dutchman, and at least five Filipino hostages are still in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf.

Washington and Manila list the Abu Sayyaf, which has more than 400 armed fighters, as a terrorist organization.

Troops kill 5 civilians at anti-India protests in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Government forces in Indian-controlled Kashmir fatally shot five civilians and injured at least 15 others Tuesday as clashes with anti-India protesters intensified in the troubled region, police said.

Four people were killed when troops fired live ammunition, shotgun pellets and tear gas to control hundreds of people throwing stones and chanting slogans in Aripanthan village, west of the main city of Srinagar, a police official said on condition of anonymity because of department policy. Three of the injured were in critical condition, police said.

News of the killings brought thousands of other Kashmiris from neighboring villages into the streets chanting "Go India, go back" and "We want freedom." Large crowds continued anti-India chants at a funeral for the four dead civilians Tuesday afternoon.

More protests erupted across the region as thousands of people took to the streets in defiance of curfew orders.

A fifth civilian was killed as government forces fired on stone-throwing protesters in the southern Anantnag area.

Residents of Kurhama village in eastern Kashmir said soldiers in trucks came into the village and entered dozens of homes, beating men and women. They said the soldiers also ransacked houses and broke into shuttered shops.

A local police officer said the action occurred after a group of youths pelted an army convoy with stones. Speaking on condition of anonymity, he said at least 15 villagers were hospitalized with various injuries.

The disputed Himalayan region has been extremely tense since government troops killed a popular rebel leader nearly six weeks ago.

World

Turkey to release 38K from jail; frees space for plotters

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkey issued a decree Wednesday paving the way for the conditional release of 38,000 prisoners, the justice minister said—an apparent move to reduce its prison population to make space for thousands of people who have been arrested as part of an investigation into last month's failed coup.

The decree allows the release of inmates who have two years or less to serve of their prison terms and makes convicts who have served half of their prison term eligible for parole. Some prisoners are excluded from the measures: people convicted of murder, domestic violence, sexual abuse or terrorism and other crimes against the state.

The measures would not apply for crimes committed after July 1, excluding any people later convicted of coup involvement.

Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag said on his Twitter account the measure would lead to the release of some 38,000 people. He insisted it was not a pardon or an amnesty but a conditional release of prisoners.

The government says the July 15 coup, which led to at least 270 deaths, was carried out by followers of the movement led by U.S.-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen who have infiltrated the military and other state institutions. Gulen has denied any prior knowledge or involvement in the coup but Turkey is demanding that the United States extradite him.

The Turkish government declared a state of emergency and launched a massive crackdown on Gulen's supporters in the aftermath of the coup. Some 35,000 people have been detained for questioning and more than 17,000 of them have been formally arrested to face trial, including soldiers, police, judges and journalists.

Tens of thousands more people with suspected links to Gulen have been suspended or dismissed from their jobs in the judiciary, media, education, health care, military and local government.

The government crackdown has raised concerns among European nations and human rights organizations, who have urged the Turkish government to show restraint.

In a first, Russia uses Iran base to bomb targets in Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—Iran allowed Russian warplanes to take off from its territory to bomb targets in Syria on Tuesday, an unprecedented move that underscores the deepening cooperation between two powerhouses heavily invested in the Syrian civil war.

The Iranian deployment increases Russia's foothold in the Middle East and widens Moscow's bombing campaign in Syria, bolstering President Bashar Assad's government ahead of a new round of peace talks the United Nations hopes to convene in coming weeks.

The long-range bombers took off early Tuesday near the Iranian city of Hamedan, 280 kilometers (175 miles) southwest of the Iranian capital, and struck targets in three provinces in northern and eastern Syria, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

The Russian warplanes then returned to Russia and no Russian forces remained stationed in Iran, said a U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to speak to reporters about the matter.

"Russia's use of an Iranian base represents a turning point in Russia's relations in the Middle East. ... It sends a powerful message to the United States and regional powers that Russia is here to stay," said Fawaz Gerges, professor of international relations at the London School of Economics.

Russia had talked about the possibility of flying planes out of Iran since late last year, but its decision to do so on Tuesday came as a surprise, U.S. officials said.

Secretary of State John Kerry called Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to discuss the operations. Underscoring the U.S. confusion, State Department spokesman Mark Toner told reporters that Washington was "still trying to assess what exactly they're doing."

Abduction of Mexican drug lord's son could unleash violence

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A "gutsy" move by a rising Mexican drug cartel to abduct a son of imprisoned drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman is raising alarms of a possible wave of bloodshed as it challenges his Sinaloa Cartel.

The grab appeared to be the latest blow aimed at undermining the jailed drug boss, coming shortly after reports that gunmen invaded the home of his mother in northern Sinaloa state.

Jalisco state Attorney General Eduardo Almaguer confirmed Tuesday night that 29-year-old Jesus Alfredo Guzman Salazar was among a half-dozen men abducted from a restaurant in the Pacific resort of Puerto Vallarta this week. He said the kidnappers were from the rival Jalisco New Generation cartel.

The Jalisco gang's power and reach have grown rapidly in recent years, often in direct competition with Guzman's cartel, which has long been considered the strongest criminal organization in Mexico.

"It could indicate an escalation," Samuel Logan, managing partner at the business and security consulting firm Southern Pulse, said of the kidnapping. "That's a pretty gutsy move."

Almaguer said seven armed men interrupted a celebration by 16 people at the upscale La Leche restaurant in Puerto Vallarta's hotel zone around 1 a.m. Monday. They separated the nine women to one side and took away the seven men, one of whom apparently escaped, he said. Authorities said they had not heard of anyone demanding a ransom.

The Jalisco cartel made a name for itself with brazen attacks on authorities in Jalisco, but it has also established itself in areas as distant as the Gulf state of Veracruz and Baja California Sur.

"It doesn't surprise me that they would push to escalate this to the next level," Logan said. "And if anything I think it will be the next week to 10 days are going to confirm that. These guys aren't going to wait around to push back."

Environment

Why is some plastic recycling no longer cost-effective?

By JEFFREY WEISS
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

TNS
Bales of plastic stacked up in the Texas Recycling plant on July 27, 2016 in Dallas.

TNS
Texas Recycling vice president of sales Kathy DeLano, left,, and president and co-owner Joel Litman poses for a portrait in the Texas Recycling plant on July 27, 2016 in Dallas.

DALLAS—The past couple of years of relatively cheap crude oil and natural gas has upended the industry with the greenest image: recycling.

Yes, it's still an advantage for many businesses and municipalities to recycle rather than have the junk hauled to a landfill.

But only a few years ago, there was plenty of cash in reselling that trash—paper, plastics and metal—to provide a nice profit for the recycling companies and give money back to the cities and companies producing the waste.

No longer. And if that doesn't turn around, it may mean some people will pay relatively more for trash pickup than if the market for recycling were better.

The problem is not only about the cheap oil and gas made possible by fracking in America's shale fields, and particularly in Texas. It's also linked to a slump in the world demand for raw materials.

A used plastic water bottle than once might have been turned into a few threads of polyester in a pair of Chinese-made jeans, woven into a carpet or been part of another bottle is now struggling harder to find a new home.

Nationwide, around 200 of more than 7,000 scrap recycling companies have gone belly-up over the past couple of years, said Joe Pickard, chief economist for the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries. Many others have throttled back operations, he said.

"The price volatility makes it really hard for our guys to do business," he said.

But not impossible.

Houston-based Waste Management is the largest trash-collecting company in America. About 10 percent of its business is recycling. And most of that has been what's called "single-stream" — when a many kinds of potentially reusable material are dumped together, like in the household blue bins.

The company issued its second quarter earnings report late last month. Recycling revenues were down about $5 million from a year ago. In the past year, Waste Management has renegotiated or lost contracts in many cities. Houston renegotiated and Dallas switched companies, with the change kicking in next year.

"We started calling it a crisis last year," said Brent Bell, vice president of recycling for Waste Management.

And the commodities market has gotten no better since then. Two years ago, the price of domestic crude oil was above $100 a barrel. It was trading around $42.72 a barrel Tuesday.

Natural gas, an even more important precursor to a lot of plastic, was trading at around $4.80 per million BTU two years ago at the Henry Hub in Louisiana. A recent price was around $2.80.

"Our customers are telling us it is cheaper to buy virgin material than recycled content," Bell said.

Even the metals market has been crunched by the slump in oil prices. A significant part of supply and demand for some metals comes from the drilling fields. And the number of rigs in operation remains near historic lows in much of the United States.

Across the board, as recycling companies work through new contracts, these new economic realities are getting baked in. So cities and companies that once expected a significant return on their waste stream are getting less—or even facing the possibility of paying fees.

The long slump in oil and gas isn't all bad for recyclers, said Chaz Miller, director for policy and advocacy for the National Waste and Recycling Association.

"It's a Hobson's choice," he said. "You aren't upset at paying less for your truck fuel."

Like many companies in the oil patch, too many recycling companies got too used to high prices for their materials, he said.

"What we are seeing, bluntly, is a lot of companies forgot that recyclables are commodities," he said.

Count Texas Recycling, based near Dallas, as one company that got the message early about being more efficient.

Unlike Waste Management, the family-owned company only takes in post-commercial already separated materials: Truckloads of plastic arrive relatively uncontaminated with paper; loads of plastic have little metal to pull out. A huge pile of cans needs only to be loaded into the monstrous baling machine to be ready for resale.

But the downturn in prices has meant the company had needed to be more selective with the kinds of materials it takes in. Some grades of plastic the company once accepted are now virtually unmarketable, said Kathy DeLano, who handles the plastics end of the business.

Last year, the company moved from several buildings to what was once a Ford plant. That made processing cheaper, company president Joel Litman said. And that helps with the bottom line in an otherwise tough market.

Paradoxically, there's little indication that the amount of material being recycled has dropped much over the past couple of years, if any. Getting recent data is tough: The EPA's newest numbers are more than two years old. But since much of what's recycled is from individuals who are doing it for environmental motives, the downturn in scrap prices doesn't affect that, experts say.

So that leaves municipalities with the challenge of finding ways to get rid of the material in an environmentally responsible manner. Which means recycling business can cut their paybacks or even charge fees to take some kinds of trash.

Like people in the oil and gas business, leaders of this industry talk hopefully about an eventual return to higher prices. But that may be more hope than reality, said Waste Management's Bell.

"We don't think we will see the return levels we saw in 2011," he said. "We think the world looks differently now and will look differently in the future. We are preparing our customers for that future."

A national shame: Bottled water sales are up as Americans fear taps

"Don't drink the tap water." Traditionally advice for Americans traveling to the Third World, that is now a sentiment that resonates domestically, too.

More Americans are opting for bottled water over what comes out of the tap because of concerns that aging pipes are leeching lead that sooner or later ends up at the faucet. Scandals in Flint, Mich., and Newark, N.J., are partly responsible for heightened consumer concern. But crumbling infrastructure is a national problem.

Years of negative publicity about sugary drinks and industry marketing also help to explain why bottled water may overtake soda in popularity this year. Still, the faltering public trust in public water systems is a sad commentary on the nation's priorities. The world's lone superpower cannot provide safe drinking water for its own citizens? This is the price we pay for allowing our water systems, roads and bridges to deteriorate even as we have wasted money on wars and other entanglements overseas, while allowing contractors to milk the insufficient number of projects that are let for domestic infrastructure improvements.

The national, state and local governments must infuse money into water systems and work to win back Americans' trust. Regulators also must keep a close eye on bottled water manufacturers to make sure consumers get the level of purity they're promised. ***(Pittsburgh Post-Gazette)***

Life & Style

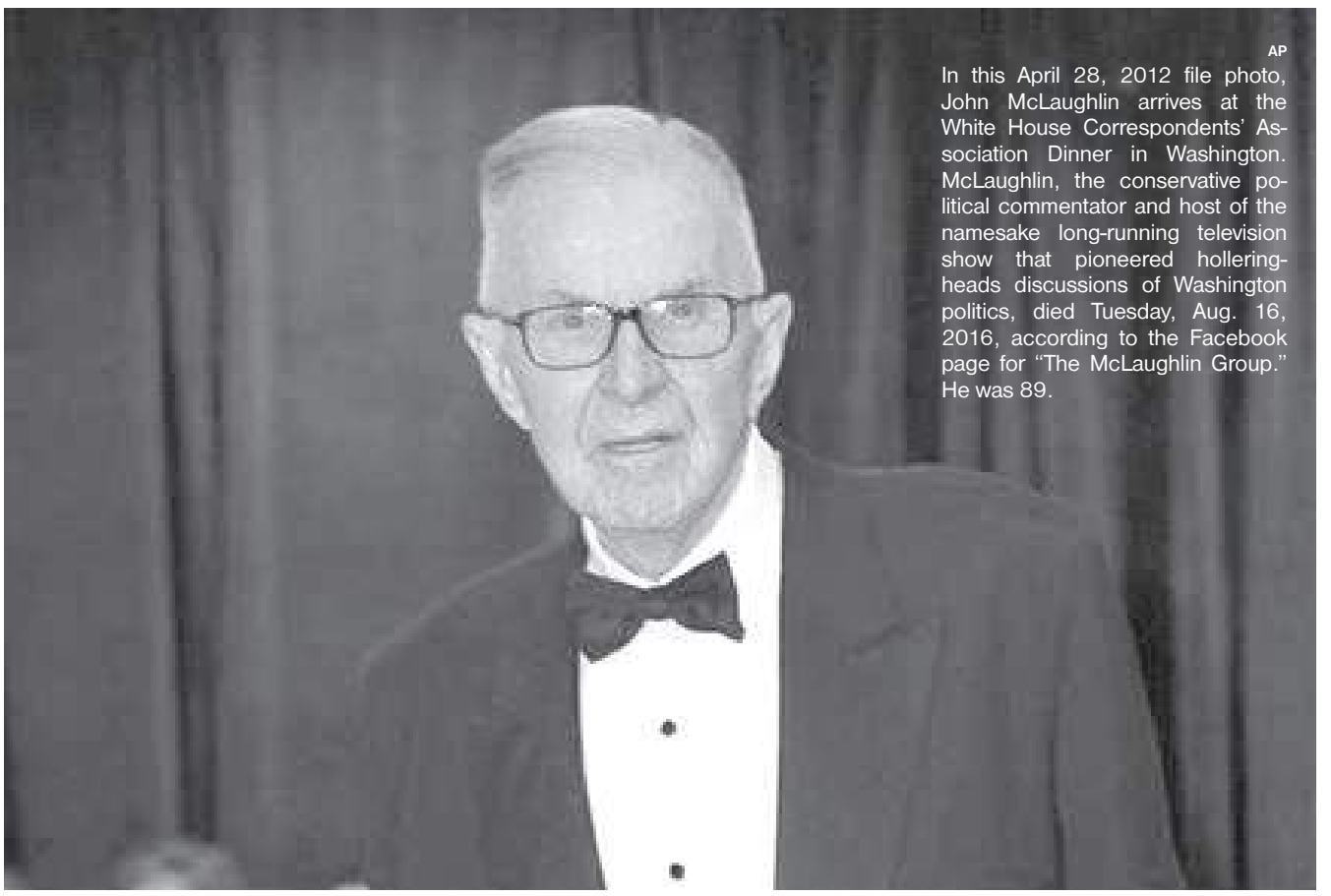
John McLaughlin, host of confrontational TV show, dead at 89

NEW YORK (AP)—John McLaughlin, the conservative political commentator and host of the namesake long-running television show that pioneered hollering-heads discussions of Washington politics, has died. He was 89.

McLaughlin died Tuesday morning, according to an announcement on the Facebook page of "The McLaughlin Group" series. No cause of death was mentioned, but an ailing McLaughlin had missed the taping for this past weekend's show—his first absence in the series' 34 years.

Since its debut in April 1982, "The McLaughlin Group" upended the soft-spoken and nonconfrontational style of shows such as "Washington Week in Review" and "Agronsky & Co." with a raucous format that largely dispensed with politicians. It instead featured journalists quizzing, talking over and sometimes insulting each other. In recent years, the show billed itself as "The American Original"—a nod to all the shows that copied its format.

"John McLaughlin was a TV institution for generations of Americans," tweeted House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. "We will miss his contagious spirit & tireless dedication."



AP

In this April 28, 2012 file photo, John McLaughlin arrives at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner in Washington. McLaughlin, the conservative political commentator and host of the namesake long-running television show that pioneered hollering-heads discussions of Washington politics, died Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2016, according to the Facebook page for "The McLaughlin Group." He was 89.

In an interview with The Associated Press in 1986, McLaughlin said he felt talk shows hadn't kept pace with changes in television.

"I began the group as a talk show of the '90s," he said, adding that he thought informing an audience could be entertaining: "The acquisition of knowledge need not be like listening to the Gregorian chant."

Critics said the show was more about show business and entertainment than journalism and politics. They said it celebrated nasty posturing, abhorred complexity and featured a group of mostly aging conservative white men spouting off on topics they knew little about.

"Whether it was the guerrilla strategy of Afghan mujahedeen or the next open-market operation by the Federal Reserve Board, the members of the group always seemed to have just gotten off the phone with the guy in charge," Eric Alterman charged in his 2000 book, "Sound and Fury: The Making of the Punditocracy."

But the format was hugely successful. As McLaughlin himself might have said, on a probability scale from zero to 10—zero meaning zero probability, 10 meaning metaphysical certitude—in the show's heyday, the chances that the Washington establishment were faithfully tuning in each week was definitely a 10.

The show began with McLaughlin declaring, "Issue One!" and often featured the journalists pontificating on four or five issues. It would end with the journalists forecasting the future—usually with a high degree of certainty, if not accuracy—and McLaughlin declaring, "Buh-bye!"

The show made stars of its panelists, who could go on to command high-priced speaking engagements and even played themselves in movies such as "Independence Day," ''Mission: Impossible" and "Watchmen." McLaughlin also played himself on episodes of "ALF" and "Murphy Brown" and was ridiculed as a speed-talking egomaniac by Dana Carvey on "Saturday Night Live."

The current group of panelists included Pat Buchanan, Eleanor Clift, Tom Rogan and Clarence Page.

"Sad news," Page tweeted. "We lost John McLaughlin this morning. I hear that he smiled before he passed. His final gift to us."

"My parents made us watch him every week," tweeted former "Saturday Night Live" player and current "Late Night" host Seth Meyers, "which made the SNL sketches all the sweeter."

The 1982 pilot featured syndicated columnists Jack Germond and Robert Novak as well as Chuck Stone of the Philadelphia Daily News and Judith Miller of The New York Times. Stone and Miller were quickly replaced by Pat Buchanan and Morton Kondracke.

Fred Barnes and Eleanor Clift were added in 1985, after Buchanan left to become Reagan's communications director, giving the show its first woman.

In July 1984 McLaughlin began hosting "John McLaughlin's One on One," an in-depth interview program. He also hosted a CNBC show, "McLaughlin," from April 1989 to January 1994.

NBC chairman blasts Trump in private Facebook post

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The chairman of NBC Entertainment slammed Donald Trump, the network's onetime "Apprentice" star, as "toxic" and "demented" in a private Facebook post that became public.

Robert Greenblatt's post refers to a "sad state of affairs thanks to a pompous businessman turned reality TV star" who thinks that speaking his mind is "refreshing."

"It's actually corrosive and toxic because his 'mind' is so demented; and his effect will unfortunately linger long after he's been told to get off the stage," the executive said in the post Monday, which doesn't refer to Trump by name.

Greenblatt does not oversee NBC News or its campaign coverage. However, his remarks likely will give critics of the media an opening for attack.

His post also derided the business mogul's ratings prowess, writing that Trump's show "consistently ran LAST in its time period, by the way."

"The Apprentice," was a hit for NBC when it began airing in 2004 but the most recent season finale of "Celebrity Apprentice," the latest incarnation, finished in fourth place when it aired in February 2015, behind shows including "ABC's "The Bachelor" and CBS' "Two Broke Girls."

A person familiar with Greenblatt's private page said Tuesday the post came from the NBC executive. The person, who lacked authority to discuss the matter publicly, spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump's campaign did not immediately return a message seeking comment

NBC, part of Comcast Corp. subsidiary NBCUniversal, declined comment Tuesday, as did Comcast.

Greenblatt took over as entertainment chairman in 2011. In June 2015, NBCUniversal said it was cutting its business ties with Trump because of his "derogatory statements" about immigrants.

The network dropped the Miss USA and Miss Universe pageants that were a joint venture between NBC and Trump, noting that he already had said he wouldn't participate in "The Apprentice."

Arnold Schwarzenegger is set to take over as host in January.

AP

Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks in Youngstown, Ohio, Monday, Aug. 15, 2016.

But NBC Entertainment's attitude toward putting Trump on the air hasn't been consistent.

Six months after ending its relationship with Trump, the network featured him as host of "Saturday Night Live"—and earned the show's best ratings in two years.

At a news conference in January, Greenblatt said if NBC never had guests that its executives publicly disagreed with that "we would be out of business."

"We're not in business with him, but love him or not, he's one of the most important political figures of our time," Greenblatt said.

Earlier this month, Greenblatt told a TV critics meeting he took a skeptical view of the idea that "Apprentice" served as a launching pad for the presidential bid that Trump began in June 2015.

"We were happy to have a show that was doing really well with a guy who was a big TV star," Greenblatt said. "I don't think there's that much of a correlation of one to the other. ... That's what great about this country."

Amy Schumer opens book tour for essay collection

NEW YORK (AP)—On the first night of her book tour, Amy Schumer had a lot to talk about besides her book.

Like what is the story with some of those couples on "The Bachelor?"

"They spent literally six hours together, and they don't know anything. They're like 'Will you marry me?' and then on the way out they're like 'What like what religion are you?'" she joked Tuesday as she spoke before more than 200 fans at the Barnes & Noble in Manhattan's Union Square.

And why are so many funny people from Long Island?

"The only way I can describe it is that at one point Long Island tried to secede," she said. Long Island, home to Schumer and Jerry Seinfeld among others, instills a "level of entitlement and overconfidence" that is "perfect for standup," she added.

Schumer's "The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo" is a collection of very personal essays, with stories of sex, childhood, show business and relationships, along with lists of things that drive her crazy (couples who work out together) and things she loves (telling a new joke, scones and sex "because it's pretty great and should be mentioned"). Schumer received a reported $8-10 million for the book, and the investment so far is paying off for the Simon & Schuster imprint Gallery Books. As of late Tuesday, "The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo" was No. 2 on Amazon.com's best-seller list, trailing only "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child: Parts One and Two."

AP

In this Nov. 15, 2015 file photo, Amy Schumer attends the VH1 Big In 2015 with Entertainment Weekly Award Show held at the Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood, Calif.

Interviewed by Comedy Central star Abbi Jacobson, Schumer said that she intended from the start to write the most candid book she could, drawing upon journals she began as a teenager. Schumer said she had been asked over the years to contribute pieces to magazines, perhaps advice on how to balance work and private life. But she laughed at the idea of advising others. "It's amazing I'm allowed in public. I have nothing to teach anybody or tell anybody," she said.

Schumer described herself as more vulnerable than her edgy comedy suggests. Noting the tattoo revealed for all on the book's back cover, she said it was a "good example" of her "trying to be hard." Her book can be bleak, and even tragic, as she recalls the shooting last summer in a Louisiana theater during a screening of her hit comedy "Trainwreck." Schumer remembered being described by one critic as "melancholy," but she agreed with Jacobson's observation that "The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo" is the work of an optimist.

Britney Spears to perform at MTV Video Music Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Britney Spears is returning to the MTV Video Music Awards stage after 10 years.

MTV said Tuesday that Spears will perform her latest single, "Make Me...," at the Aug. 28 show at New York's Madison Square Garden. Spears last performed at the 2007 VMAs.

Rapper G-Eazy will hit the stage alongside the pop star this year.

The 34-year-old Spears will release her new album, "Glory," two days before the VMAs. Spears's VMA career has included five wins and 28 nominations.

Beyonce is this year's leading nominee with 11, followed by Adele, who earned eight nominations. They will compete for video of the year along with Kanye West, Justin Bieber and Drake.

Rihanna will also perform at the live show and receive the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award.

AP

In this May 22, 2016 file photo, Britney Spears performs at the Billboard Music Awards at the T-Mobile Arena, in Las Vegas. Spears will return to the MTV Video Music Awards stage to perform her new single, "Make Me…," at the Aug. 28 show at Madison Square Garden in New York. She last performed at the 2007 VMAs.

'A Star is Born' remake to feature Lady Gaga, Bradley Cooper

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper are starring in a remake of "A Star is Born."

Warner Bros announced Tuesday that the film will mark the singer-actress' first leading role in a movie and the directorial debut of the "American Sniper" actor-producer. Gaga will compose and perform new songs for the musical drama.

The "Bad Romance" and "Applause" singer recently appeared in the fifth season of the FX series "American Horror Story." Her other acting credits include filmmaker Robert Rodriguez's movies "Machete Kills" and "Sin City: A Dame to Die For."

Cooper is best known for starring roles in such films as "American Hustle," ''Aloha" and "The Hangover." He served as on a producer on his movies "Silver Linings Playbook," ''Limitless" and "War Dogs."

The original "A Star Is Born" was released in 1937 and featured Janet Gaynor as a budding actress entangled in a relationship with an established Hollywood star played by Fredric March.

"A Star is Born" was remade as a musical drama in 1954 with Judy Garland and James Mason and again in 1976 with Barbra Streisand and Kris Kristofferson.

'American Horror Story' coming to Halloween Horror Nights

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The serial killers, ghosts, vampires and other freaky misfits from "American Horror Story" are coming to Universal Studios.

Universal announced plans Tuesday to bring mazes based on the FX anthology horror series to the annual Halloween Horror Nights events at its theme parks in Universal City, California, and Orlando, Florida.

The attractions will feature elements from the "Murder House," ''Freak Show" and "Hotel" installments of "American Horror Story." It marks the first time the series has been featured at the popular annual event.

Halloween Horror Nights kicks off Sept. 16. The sixth season of "American Horror Story" is scheduled to debut Sept. 14.

Other mazes at this year's events will be based on horror franchises such as "Halloween" ''The Exorcist" and "The Texas Chain Saw Massacre."

Cousin escaping mom's abuse needs to find her own space

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 21-year-old college student. Recently, my cousin (also 21) moved in with my parents and me because her mom is verbally and mentally abusive. Lately, I'm having issues with her being here.

She constantly barges into my room, leaving me no time for myself. Most days she ends up napping in my bed instead of hers, leaving drool on my sheets. When she comes home from school, she drops all of her things in my room. My parents cleared out a room for her, yet most of her stuff is in mine.

She gets ready in my room instead of hers and talks on the phone with her boyfriend loudly while I'm studying or reading. She's constantly complaining about school, her boyfriend, work, etc. If I get invited somewhere, she tries to tag along.

I don't know what to do. I need time for myself. I can't bring these issues up to her because she's extremely sensitive and will see it as an attack. I don't know how much longer I can take it because she is stuck here until November. Please help.

CALIFORNIA GIRL

DEAR CALIFORNIA GIRL: You need to talk to your parents about your cousin's lack of boundaries. Everyone needs personal time, and yours should be respected. Installing a lock on your bedroom door could guarantee that your cousin stays out in your absence.

However, because you are all adults—even though your cousin appears to be emotionally stuck in adolescence -- some rules need to be established. If she would consider it an attack if they come from you, your parents should be the ones who deliver the message.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 13 and my problem is, when I look in the mirror, all I can see is ugliness. My mother has heard the way I talk about myself, and she doesn't like it one bit. But I can't seem to stop because all I hear is, "You're ugly or you're fat. Go on a diet!" Is there something wrong with me? Do I need help? If so, what type of help?

WEST COAST TEEN

DEAR WEST COAST TEEN: Whether or not you are overweight is something your doctor should determine. As to your being "ugly," most young teenagers go through a period of transition. Your problem isn't your looks. It's the voice in your head. My advice to you would be to concentrate on developing the things you are good at -- sports, music, art, drama—and let the rest take care of itself because it will.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

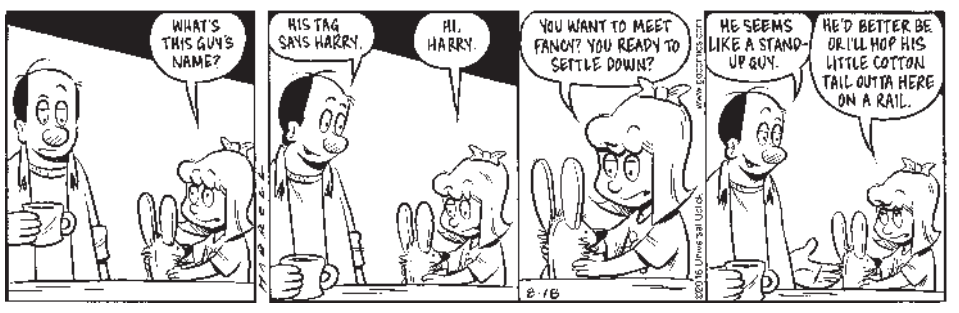
I SAW A TURTLE DOWN BY THE CREEK.
BIG DEAL! WHO CARES? I'VE SEEN HUNDREDS OF TURTLES! PROBABLY MILLIONS! WHO WANTS TO SEE ANOTHER DUMB OL' TURTLE?
HA!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

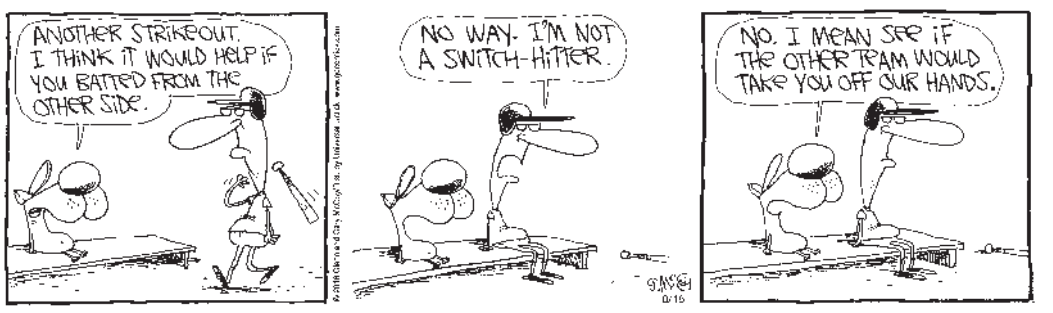
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S THIS GUY'S NAME?
HIS TAG SAYS HARRY.
HI, HARRY.
YOU WANT TO MEET FANCY? YOU READY TO SETTLE DOWN?
HE SEEMS LIKE A STAND-UP GUY.
HE'D BETTER BE OR I'LL HOP HIS LITTLE COTTON TAIL OUTTA HERE ON A RAIL.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


ANOTHER STRIKEOUT. I THINK IT WOULD HELP IF YOU BATTED FROM THE OTHER SIDE.
NO WAY. I'M NOT A SWITCH-HITTER.
NO. I MEAN SEE IF THE OTHER TEAM WOULD TAKE YOU OFF OUR HANDS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

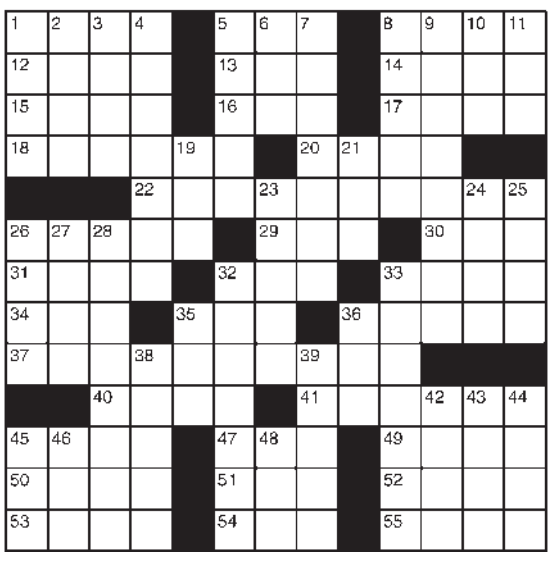
1 Seized vehicle
5 "Caught ya!"
8 Olympic skater Michelle
12 Baseball's Moises
13 Tierra — Fuego
14 Lighten
15 Conspiracy
16 Bankbook abbr.
17 To boot
18 Biblical dancer
20 Sty cry
22 Unwavering
26 Honda model
29 Owns
30 Bankroll
31 Skip
32 Repair
33 Deposited
34 Flavor enhancer, for short
35 Go astray
36 With merriment
37 "Wheel of Fortune" finale
40 French 101 verb
41 Stockbroker's advice
45 Pooch
47 "Alice" waitress
49 Foreshadow
50 Pot starter
51 Grazing land
52 Luau strings
53 Active person
54 Even so
55 Heart of the matter

DOWN

1 Knocks
2 Jazzy Fitzgerald
3 Combine
4 In la-la land
5 Farewell
6 Chick's mom
7 Charlie Parker's instrument
8 Reeves of "The Matrix"
9 "— Renee" (1960s hit)
10 Ninny
11 Role for 8-Down
19 Soft shoe, for short
21 Mensa stats
23 Horned beast
24 Bar
25 Vortex
26 Barber's tool
27 "— Excited" (Pointer Sisters hit)
28 Brief scene
32 Luminescent insect
33 Colorful beetle
35 Old map letters
36 Bearded beast
38 Say
39 WWII sub
42 Mischievous Norse god
43 Praiseful pieces
44 Compass point
45 Irate
46 Popular card game
48 Shelter

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Edward Norton, 47; Andy Samberg, 38; Denis Leary, 59; Robert Redford, 80.

Happy Birthday: Change things up this year. The more you socialize and participate in events and activities, the better you will do. Your ability to touch others with your expressive and sincere words of wisdom will result in your success. Good fortune and interesting partnerships look promising and will lead to prosperity. Your numbers are 3, 14, 23, 25, 34, 43, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Stick to the basics and finish what you start. You'll be judged by what you do, so stay on top of every detail. You can bring about positive changes if you go about it the right way. Make things happen. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take a trip that encourages you to expand on an interest or contributes to business goals. Share a special moment with someone you love. Don't be afraid to try something different. Make personal improvements and forge ahead. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stick close to home and attend to odd jobs that have been left undone. Work on improving a stressed relationship. The little extras you do to make your life better will also make you more productive at work. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Act fast, and you'll be able to take advantage of unexpected opportunities instead of sitting on the sidelines thinking about what could have been. Make it a point to show everyone what you can do. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): When it comes to financial agreements and money matters, you will have to be careful how you move forward. You'll be shortchanged if you let someone else handle your affairs. Take control in order to avoid loss. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Consider your options and what's realistic. If you shoot for the impossible, you will end up with nothing. Don't give in to someone who is looking out for their best interests. Know your limitations and your strengths. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Information will not be easily acquired. A problem will arise while traveling if you let someone interfere or take over. Take charge and make the changes you want to see happen, and you won't be disappointed. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Do the unexpected and stay ahead of someone who is trying to play games with you. Good fortune will be yours if you handle matters in your own way. Be resourceful and fearless. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Mistakes will happen if you are overly confident. Don't share your plans or you will end up in a vulnerable position. Someone's actions will put you in a compromising position. Problems will surface when dealing with friends. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll be given a chance to do something special. Consider the best way to take advantage of an offer without being taken for granted. Do your best to avoid setbacks or interference. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You can change direction and come out on top. Look for a way to use your skills differently or engage in partnerships that won't jeopardize your current earning power. Don't lose your cool. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Keep moving forward. Don't let anyone deter you from doing what you want to do with the person you feel most comfortable with. Love and romance are featured and will lead to long-term improvements. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are precise, thorough and blunt. You are inventive and playful.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9	7			5		2	
				1		8		
	5			6				
			4			2		1
	3						7	
6		8			9			
				4			3	
				7				
	8		1			6	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	9	6	4	3	7	2	8	1
4	2	3	5	1	8	7	6	9
1	7	8	2	6	9	3	4	5
9	6	4	8	5	2	1	3	7
8	1	5	6	7	3	4	9	2
2	3	7	9	4	1	6	5	8
7	4	1	3	8	5	9	2	6
3	8	2	1	9	6	5	7	4
6	5	9	7	2	4	8	1	3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MEGHAN TRAINOR — Solution: 8 letters

T	S	C	G	U	N	T	O	U	C	H	A	B	L	E
I	R	L	R	W	H	I	S	P	E	R	I	M	H	P
T	S	U	A	E	D	R	O	C	E	R	L	O	E	I
L	T	K	M	C	D	W	L	I	P	S	O	V	A	C
E	T	U	M	P	O	I	T	S	K	T	V	I	R	S
B	E	L	Y	O	E	V	T	U	E	B	E	N	T	B
A	S	E	D	H	U	T	A	M	L	U	M	S	O	E
N	U	L	L	C	N	T	A	K	L	R	E	N	S	S
N	H	E	Y	I	H	H	T	A	Y	T	G	S	M	T
A	C	N	I	T	S	U	J	H	N	O	I	U	U	P
W	A	Y	R	A	G	A	R	O	E	N	R	O	B	A
I	S	E	K	I	L	Y	C	C	G	D	E	A	L	R
O	S	L	O	N	A	I	P	E	H	P	O	P	A	T
H	A	L	A	N	D	E	R	S	O	N	B	O	D	Y
W	M	R	A	L	M	O	S	T	O	N	E	Y	R	U

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Attorney for Interest Party: Norman T. Tenorio

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: **CONCEPCION MUNA MANGLONA,** **Decedent.**	**Civil Action No. 97-0307** **AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE PETITION FOR DECREE OF PARTIAL DISTRIBUTION** **Date: September 22, 2016** **Time: 9:00 a.m.** **Judge: Joseph N. Camacho**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 22nd day of September, 2016, at 9:00 a.m., a hearing will be held before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho on the Interested Party's Petition for Decree of Partial Distribution in the above-styled matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 14th day of July, 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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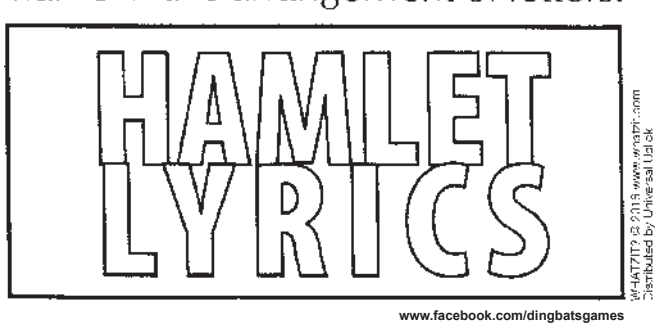

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Pierce plans on returning to Clippers for 2016-17 season

LOS ANGELES—Paul Pierce, anguished at having gone back and forth most of the summer over which direction his basketball career should go, is "leaning heavily towards returning" to the court to play for the Clippers during the 2016-17 season.

Pierce, who turns 39 on Oct. 13, will be entering his 19th season in the NBA, his second with the Clippers.

He played in 68 games last season, averaging career lows in points (6.1), field-goal percentage (36.3%) and minutes played (18.1).

"He didn't like the way he finished last season," said an NBA official who was not authorized to speak publicly on the matter. "So he wants to come back and play again. It's been a tough decision for him."

Pierce, who was a star at Inglewood High, returned to his hometown of Los Angeles with the goal of helping the Clippers reach the championship level.

It didn't materialize last season for Pierce or the Clippers, who lost in the first round of the Western Conference playoffs to the Portland Trail Blazers when All-Stars Chris Paul (broken right hand) and Blake Griffin (injured left quadriceps tendon) couldn't finish the series.

AP

Paul Pierce, left, is leaning heavily towards returning to the court to play for the Clippers during the 2016-17 season.

Pierce had signed a three-year, $10.5-million deal with the Clippers during the summer of 2015 to reunite with Coach Doc Rivers, with whom he won an NBA championship in Boston. Pierce's $3.527-million salary for the 2016-17 season is guaranteed and $1.096,080 of his $3.679-million salary in the final year of his deal is guaranteed. His salary for the 2017-18 season would become fully guaranteed on June 30, 2017.

Pierce was drafted 10th overall in 1998 by the Boston, where he spent the first 15 years of his career and where he had the most success.

He won the championship with Boston in 2008 and was named the NBA Finals most valuable player. He reached the Finals once more, when the Celtics lost to the Lakers in 2010.

During his 18 years in the NBA, Pierce averaged 20 points, 5.7 rebounds and 3.6 assists. He shot 44.5% from the field, 36.9% from three-point range and 80.7% from the free-throw line.

Pierce's career playoff averages are equally impressive: 19.4 points, 6.0 rebounds and 3.5. He shot 43.3% from the field, 35.5% from three-point range and 83% from the free-throw line in the postseason.

Pierce hasn't been the same player in the later stages of his career, becoming more effective as a power forward than the 6-7 small forward who dominated opponents. But he is a 10-time All-Star and four-time All-NBA selection.

Rivers told Yahoo's the Vertical recently that there is a departure plan for whenever Pierce does retire.

"If he decides to retire, then we're going to make sure that Boston picks (Pierce) up for one day and he retires as a Celtic, because that's what he should retire as," Rivers said on the podcast. "So we have all that in place."

Steelers' Harrison not interested in talking to NFL

LATROBE, Pa. (AP)—Pittsburgh Steelers' linebacker James Harrison doesn't want to face a suspension. He is also not interested in talking to NFL representatives, either.

The NFL's senior vice president of labor policy and league affairs, Adolpho Birch, sent a letter Monday to the NFL Players Association detailing a plan to indefinitely suspend Harrison, Clay Matthews, Julius Peppers and Mike Neal if they don't speak with the league by Aug. 25 as part of its investigation into an alleged link to performance-enhancing drugs.

The players' punishment would end at the discretion of Commissioner Roger Goodell once interviews are completed, according to the letter obtained by The Associated Press.

Harrison said he isn't interested.

"I'm not going to answer questions for every little thing that some Tom, Dick and Harry comes up with," Harrison said. "If that's the case, somebody can come out and say that James Harrison is a pedophile. (Are) they going to suspend me and put me in an investigation for being a pedophile just because somebody said it?"

Harrison said he doesn't want to be suspended, but he is prepared to take the situation as far as New England Patriots' quarterback Tom Brady, who fought his four-game "Deflategate" suspension for 18 months — nearly to the U.S. Supreme Court—before deciding to no longer proceed with the legal process. His suspension begins next month.

"When it comes down to it, I want to play, but it's certain rules and things they need to go through that they didn't even go through just to start an investigation," Harrison said at training camp.

Harrison said in June he would only agree to an interview if it were at his home and Goodell was present. He extended his invitation again on Tuesday.

"Like I said before, I don't have a problem with doing an interview," Harrison said. "Come to my house. Bring Roger with you."

Harrison said he would "lean in the direction" of speaking with the league if the Steelers suggest an interview because he doesn't want to let his teammates and the organization down.

"I'll have to deal with that when the time comes," Harrison said.

Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said he is staying out of it.

"This has nothing to do with us," Tomlin said. "This is between him and the (NFLPA) and the league. I assume that he is going to do what he needs to do."

Goodell's power to punish players has been an increasingly difficult issue between the NFL and the union in recent years, highlighted by the Brady case and that of Vikings running back Adrian Peterson , who fought his suspension over allegations of child abuse.

Harrison, a 14-year veteran, is a longtime leader of the Steelers. Matthews and Peppers are key players for Green Bay's defense, and Neal is currently a free agent who spent the past six seasons with the Packers.

Matthews and Peppers did not talk with reporters on Tuesday. Green Bay general manager Ted Thompson said the Packers would support the players, but declined to discuss the case.

"Everybody in the world's going to be talking about it, but I'm not going to have anything to say about it, the Packers will not have anything to say about it until it gets resolved," Thompson said. "You'd rather have those players than not. I'm not saying that we wouldn't miss `em" if they are not able to play.

The NFL first notified the four players on Jan. 11 about the investigation into a report by Al-Jazeera including allegations made by Charlie Sly, who worked as an intern at an anti-aging clinic, about the use of PEDs by several athletes, including the four linebackers. Sly later recanted his claims. Retired quarterback Peyton Manning was also cited in the report, but the NFL cleared him after a separate investigation in which the Broncos star granted interviews and provided all records sought by league investigators.

Birch, in his letter, said the league has made "at least seven attempts" to arrange interviews with the linebackers. The players have refused to be interviewed without being presented with what they've called credible evidence. Affidavits were sent by the NFLPA on behalf of the players, but Birch dismissed each as statements "wholly devoid of any detail."

Harrison said in his statement, sent to Birch on July 25 by the NFLPA, that he never met nor communicated with the source of the Al Jazeera report and has never violated the NFL's policy on performance-enhancing substances.

Titans trade wide receiver Green-Beckham to Eagles

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—In need of wide receivers, the Philadelphia Eagles acquired Dorial Green-Beckham from Tennessee.

The Eagles traded versatile offensive lineman Dennis Kelly to the Titans on Tuesday to get Green-Beckham, a talented player who has struggled with consistency and been sidetracked by off-field issues.

"Obviously, he's made mistakes," Eagles personnel boss Howie Roseman said. "He's a kind-hearted kid and he has the right intentions. And that if you get a chance to really spend some time with him, you'll see that. He's not a locker room cancer at all."

Green-Beckham wrote on Twitter: "Philly here I come! Much love to all my teammates, coaches and fans in Nashville. Thanks for everything."

Tennessee has lost two tackles to injuries since the offseason program started, so Kelly gives them depth behind left tackle Taylor Lewan and rookie right tackle Jack Conklin.

"Dennis was a guy that we thought would help our football team, that would make us a more competitive position group up there," Titans general manager Jon Robinson said. "He's played three positions. He's started 15 games in the NFL at (left) tackle, guard and right tackle. So we're looking forward to working with him.

Green-Beckham was a second-round pick last year after he was dismissed from the team at Missouri and transferred to Oklahoma, where he didn't play a down. He caught 32 passes for 549 yards with four touchdowns and immediately becomes one of Philadelphia's most accomplished receivers.

"He comes in with an opportunity, no promises have been made," Roseman said. "We felt comfortable to bring him in here to compete. He's physically gifted. He's 6-5, he's 240, he runs a 4.4. He's got a rare skill set.

"Now, there's a reason that he's available at this time. He's got to get more consistent. But for us and where we are in development, we thought it was a risk worth taking."

Titans coach Mike Mularkey acknowledged a lack of consistency had been an issue with Green-Beckham.

Utley hits 2 HRs, gets curtain calls in Philly return

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Chase Utley added another memorable moment to his career in Philadelphia—almost a year after he last wore a Phillies uniform.

Utley got curtain calls after each of his two home runs—including a grand slam—in his first game at Citizens Bank Park since being traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers last Aug. 19. Those cheers came after fans greeted him with a 1 1/2-minute ovation before he struck out leading off the Dodgers' 15-5 rout of the Phillies on Tuesday night.

"It's completely overwhelming," Utley said. "The standing ovation my first at-bat is something I'll never forget. It was truly special."

Utley was a six-time All-Star in 13 seasons as Philadelphia's second baseman, helping the team win five straight NL East titles and the 2008 World Series. Fans showed their appreciation with four standing ovations.

"It's something you can't really describe in words," Utley said. "It's a special feeling to see the fans show that much support."

In the fifth, Utley hit a two-out solo homer off Vince Velasquez (8-5) and raced around the bases in customary fashion. Fans clamored for a rare curtain call by a visiting player, and Utley obliged to another standing ovation.

In the seventh, Utley hit a grand slam off Michael Mariot, and fans again cheered him back out of the dugout. It was Utley's seventh career grand slam. His first career hit was a slam at Veterans Stadium.

Red Sox 5, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Mookie Betts homered twice and drove in five runs, helping the resurgent Boston Red Sox beat the Baltimore Orioles for their fifth straight win.

Betts hit a three-run drive in the fifth inning and added a tiebreaking two-run shot in the seventh. He's batting .426 with 12 homers and 18 RBI in 11 games against the Orioles this season.

Blue Jays 12, Yankees 6

In New York, Russell Martin homered twice, including a go-ahead shot in an eight-run eighth inning, and Troy Tulowitzki had four hits as Toronto erased a six-run deficit to beat New York.

Edwin Encarnacion hit a tying homer and drove home three runs in the eighth as Toronto took advantage of a complete meltdown by New York's bullpen.

Pirates 4, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Jung Ho Kang hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning and Pittsburgh knocked San Francisco out of first place in the NL West.

Kang homered off reliever Derek Law (4-2) one pitch after Andrew McCutchen was thrown out attempting to steal second base. It was Kang's 14th home run this season and third in four games.

Rangers 5, Athletics 4, 10 innings

In Arlington, Rougned Odor was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded in the 10th inning, forcing home the winning run for AL-leading Texas.

Carlos Beltran had tied the game with his fourth hit, a two-run single, after John Axford (4-4) walked the bases loaded. Marc Rzepczynski came on and the A's opted to intentionally walk Adrian Beltre, reloading the bases. Odor was hit in the shoulder on the next pitch.

Rockies 6, Nationals 2

In Denver, DJ LeMahieu had three hits and reached base for the ninth straight plate appearance and Colorado's bullpen threw six scoreless innings following a lengthy weather delay.

LeMahieu singled in the first inning, hit a two-run home run in the third and tripled and scored the go-ahead run in the fifth off Yusmeiro Petit (3-3).

Indians 3, White Sox 1

In Cleveland, Corey Kluber allowed one run in six innings to win his fourth consecutive start, and Cleveland beat Chicago for the seventh straight time.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Chase Utley acknowledges the applause of the fans as he comes to bat during the first inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2016, in Philadelphia. Utley was a member of the Phillies' championship team in 2008 and a favorite of the fans for the years he played on the team.

Kluber (13-8) struck out seven and walked two, allowing his only run on Justin Morenau's one-out homer in the sixth.

Cubs 4, Brewers 1, Game 1
Cubs 4, Brewers 1, Game 2

In Chicago, Jason Hammel threw seven innings of two-hit ball, Anthony Rizzo jumped onto a wall to make a remarkable catch of a foul ball and Chicago beat banged-up Milwaukee to sweep a day-night doubleheader.

Javier Baez hit a two-run homer while Hammel (13-5) struck out seven to extend his scoreless streak to 22 innings.

In the opener, Trevor Cahill (2-3) came off the disabled list to throw five innings of two-hit ball in his first start in nearly 16 months in Chicago's 4-0 win.

Cardinals 8, Astros 5

In Houston, Tommy Pham and Jedd Gyorko each homered to help the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Houston Astros 8-5 on Tuesday night.

The Cardinals roughed up Astros ace Dallas Keuchel (7-12) to overcome a rocky outing from starter Jaime Garcia (10-8). Garcia gave up five runs and seven hits in five innings, including three home runs.

Royals 6, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Danny Duffy allowed one run in 7 2/3 innings and Kansas City hit four homers.

Raul Mondesi, Alex Gordon and Eric Hosmer all homered off Justin Verlander (12-7), while Kendrys Morales went deep off Mark Lowe.

Mets 7, Diamondbacks 5

In Phoenix, Noah Syndergaard earned his first victory in seven starts, helping himself with a two-run homer, and New York ended a string of four consecutive losses to Arizona in the past week.

Jeurys Familia pitched a perfect ninth for his major league-leading 40th save.

Angels 7, Mariners 6

In Anaheim, Cliff Pennington hit a go-ahead triple in the eighth inning, Albert Pujols slugged his 22nd home run and Los Angeles ended an 11-game losing streak.

With two outs in the eighth, Jefry Marte turned on a 97 mph fastball from Arquimedes Caminero (2-3) and it drove into the stands to tie it 6-6.

Reds 6, Marlins 3

In Cincinnati, Tucker Barnhart's first career grand slam capped Cincinnati's five-run first inning, giving Anthony DeSclafani all the support he needed to beat his former team.

With Miami leading 1-0, the Reds loaded the bases with three straight two-out singles in the first against Jose Urena (1-4).

Rays 15, Padres 1

In St. Petersburg, Brad Miller hit two of Tampa Bay's five home runs in a rout.

Rookie Blake Snell (4-5) struck out eight in five innings, giving up one run, five hits and four walks.

Twins 4, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Ervin Santana scattered four hits over seven scoreless innings, Joe Mauer homered and Minnesota beat Atlanta.

Santana (6-9) walked two and struck out six, throwing 64 of his 107 pitches for strikes to win his third straight start.

Holliday needs surgery, could miss rest of regular season

HOUSTON (AP)—St. Louis Cardinals outfielder Matt Holliday will have surgery Wednesday on his right thumb, an injury that could sideline him for the rest of the regular season.

Holliday was hit by a 94 mph fastball from the Chicago Cubs' Mike Montgomery last Thursday. Cardinals general manager John Mozeliak said Holliday could be sidelined through September.

"The procedure was the only chance to potentially get him back this year, so that's a big step to make," Cardinals manager Mike Matheny said Tuesday. "He wants to play."

The 36-year-old Holliday, a seven-time All-Star, is batting .242 this season with 19 home runs and 60 RBI in 107 games. He would be eligible for free agency after the World Series if the Cardinals declined a $17 million option for next year and chose to pay a $1 million buyout.

Tommy Pham and Brandon Moss have seen time in left field in Holliday's absence.

Reliever Seth Maness was put on the 15-day disabled list and will have Tommy John surgery, which likely will sideline him until 2018. The Cardinals recalled right-hander Sam Tuivailala from Triple-A Memphis.

Maness was 2-2 with a 3.41 ERA in 29 relief appearances this year. He was on the disabled list May 13 to June 18 due to right elbow inflammation.

St. Louis has 12 players on the disabled list, including seven added since the start of August.

In New York, Nathan Eovaldi might never throw another pitch for the New York Yankees, and his entire baseball future is suddenly uncertain.

The right-hander revealed Tuesday he will miss the remainder of this season and all of next year because of two tears in his elbow that require serious surgery. It's a stunning setback for the Yankees, who hoped Eovaldi would be a key cog in their rotation for several seasons when they acquired him from the Miami Marlins in a December 2014 trade.

"A huge blow," Eovaldi said outside the clubhouse. "When I got the MRI and got the results, I was really surprised."

One of the hardest-throwing starters in the majors, the inconsistent Eovaldi was 9-8 with a 4.76 ERA in 124 2/3 innings this year. It seems unlikely New York will keep him on the roster as he rehabs next year, knowing he could become a free agent following the season.

After receiving a second opinion on his ailing elbow, Eovaldi said he has a torn flexor tendon and a partially torn ulnar collateral ligament. The torn UCL will necessitate a second Tommy John surgery for the 26-year-old, who had the procedure nine years ago when he was a high school junior.

"It hurt. I mean, this is a guy we were counting on," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said Tuesday night after his bullpen blew a six-run lead in a 12-6 loss to the Toronto Blue Jays that was delayed 42 minutes by rain in the fifth inning.

'The Crank' aims to regain winning ways in ROP 20

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Toughened by his defeat in Pacific Xtreme Combat last month, Trench Tech's Frank "The Crank' Camacho is out to prove he is capable of recovering from a setback in such a short time as he competes in tomorrow's Rites of Passage 20: Conquer at The Warehouse.

Camacho, who absorbed a TKO loss to Korean Han Seul Kim at PXC 54 in Guam last July 8, will be facing the latter's compatriot Hyun Joo Kim in one of the two main events in ROP 19.

"It's devastating for an athlete to suffer a loss in any sport. I was healthy after the loss so I thought to myself, I could either cry about the whole situation for a week, two weeks, a month, a year, or I could get back to working towards my goals, take the loss as a slight road bump on my goals and get back on a win streak. That's when I gave Cuki a call to see if he could get me on the Rites of Passage card. There's nothing better than fighting for the Saipan crowd," said Camacho when asked why he decided to return to the octagon cage quickly after the defeat to Han Seul Kim.

Though he dropped his previous bout to end his streak, the 27-year-old MMA fighter said he will approach this weekend's match the same way he viewed his previous fights.

"I approach every fight with the same mentality. I always prepare properly, train hard and fight hard on fight night.

PACIFIC XTREME COMBAT
Frank "The Crank" Camacho, left, keeps his hands up as he waits for the next move of Korean Han Seul Kim during the first round of their bout in PXC 54 in Guam last month.

It's how 'The Crank' came to be. Every fight I learn something new about myself. And what I learned from my last fight is to bring back the old 'Crank' and mesh with the smarter and more experienced one. Relentlessness and aggressiveness, combined with experience and technique, that's what I am excited for on Friday at The Warehouse," said Camacho.

The Trench Tech bet is undoubtedly the more experience fighter in the co-main event bout with his 18-4 record compared to Kim's 1-2 slate. Kim lost his first two bouts before earning a unanimous win over Sung Won Son in Top FC National League 2 in Korea two years ago. Camacho, on the other hand, before losing in PXC 54, got three straight wins, including a TKO victory over Japan's Yasuaki Miura in ROP 18 last year.

Meanwhile, the other main event in tomorrow's ROP 20 will feature a title bout between Won Jun Jang of Korean Top Team and Ricky Camp of Guam Spike 22 in the bantamweight divisions. Three kickboxing matches and nine more MMA fights will also take place in this weekend's event.

BEARS

From Page 28

four complete innings.

The BSI Aces, who were in a must-win situation after the Bears won Games 1 (4-2), and 2 (4-3), boosted their chances to extend the series after scoring two runs each in the first and third inning and yielding no earned run to their foes in the first four. Jeremy Atalig had a two-run double for the BSI Aces at the top of the first, while his sacrifice fly at rightfield in the third gave his team their fourth run. Lamarc Iguel scored the other run for the BSI Aces at the top of the third as he reached home off the Bears errors.

The Bears, on the other hand, got their first run at the bottom of the opening inning with A.J. Lizama scoring off an error from BSI Aces catcher Virgil Secharmidal. The Bears then went silent in the next three innings with Mike Iguel allowing only one hit after giving up three in the first to help the BSI Aces take the early lead in Game 3.

However, the BSI Aces' advantage was sliced to one, 3-4, thanks to A.J. Lizama's two-run single at the bottom of the fifth. The Bears eventually tied the match in the seventh as Jose Lizama stole home while the BSI Aces were busy chasing Kiku Lizama in a rundown to second instead of preventing Jose from scoring.

After the defensive meltdown, the BSI Aces' offense also suffered in the last two innings, allowing the Bears to steal the victory. Actually, the Aces struggled at the plate from the fourth to the last inning against the Bears three pitchers and the rest of the pennant champions' defense.

Starting pitcher Peyton Lizama, who gave up three earned runs and three hits in the first three innings, yielded only one hit in the last 1.4 innings he pitched, walked two, and struck out one. Kiku Lizama relieved Peyton and the former fanned out two batters with his second strikeout helping the Bears force the BSI Aces to a 1-2-3 inning in the sixth.

A.J. closed out for the Bears and had no problems at the start of his shift as the BSI Aces had another 1-2-3 inning. He gave up a single to Manny Salas to kick off the eighth inning, but the latter was left stranded at first, as the next three BSI Aces batter flied out. Kiku, who moved to shortstop, and Henry Lizama caught the first two flies, while A.J. got the last. The Bears closer then made two more stops at the top of the ninth to move the his team closer to the finals sweep after fanning out BSI Aces leadoff batter Virgil Secharmidal and picking up a short shot from Ben Jones and throwing to first baseman Kenny Kaipat for the last out. The Bears got the second out earlier off a 6-3 putout play on Lamarc.

A.J., Kiku, and Peyton threw a three-hitter from the fourth to the ninth inning to shut down the BSI Aces. With the trio working the mound, the BSI Aces made it to as far as third base only once with Salas advancing off a wild pitch from Peyton, but was stranded along with Angel Falig (at first base) when Kiku came and struck out Luis Iguel for the third out in the fifth inning.

Meanwhile, the Bears' sweep in the best-of-five finals was their second perfect mark as they were also undefeated in 14 games in the double-round robin regular season. Overall, the pennant and league champions played 20 games and lost only match (to Titanium in Game 2 of their best-of-three semis series).

LEE

From Page 28

third place in Group 1 behind Vanuatu's Samuel Strid (4-1) and Schorr and ahead of Tahiti's Brendong Fong (2-3), Tonga's Sigi Palelei (1-4), and American Samoa's John Paul Lim (0-5).

In Group 2, the second-ranked Ken Song of the CNMI completed a sweep of his last four games after losing his first. Song got his fourth victory at the expense of Vanuatu's Warea Tigo, 4-1, 2-4, 10-3, to place second in the pool behind Tahiti's Vaitei Molinier (5-0).

Fiji's Kalese Kofe (3-2), Shantanu SHail (1-4), and Avikash Kumar (0-5) and Tigona (2-3) completed Group 2 of the boys U14 singles, which will start its playoffs today. Schorr is pitted against Tigona at the upper half of the draw with the winner advancing to the semis against the victor of the match between Song and Lee. Other pairings are Kofe versus Strid and Fong against Molinier.

In the girls U16 singles, Lee is also unscathed after three games, extending her streak yesterday after another shutout win, 4-0, 4-0, over Samoa's Maanaima Tausi. Lee, who blanked the Federated State of Micronesia's Sunshein Palik on Day 2 and allowed only two points in Fiji's Ruby Coffin in the opener, will go for a sweep in Group 1 today when she faces Vanuatu's Daisy Sipiti.

In Group 2, Isabel Heras absorbed her first defeat after a 2-0 start as she bowed to Tahiti's Naia Guitton, 1-4, 2-4, yesterday. Heras' teammate Tania Tan, also played on Day 3 and forced the unbeaten Vienna Kumar of Fiji to a super-tiebreaker third set before losing, 1-4, 4-1, 8-10. Tan dropped to a 1-3 record for fourth place in the group standings, while Heras is at third with her 2-1 mark and will play Kumar (3-0) in the final pool play match today.

In other results, Coume Kaga won her last pool play match against Samoa's Maria Kerslake, 4-2, 4-0, to rank third in Group 1 with her 3-2 record. Fiji's Saoirse Breen (4-0) and Tahiti's Kira Fong Loi (4-1) are in the Top 2 and will be joined by Conatsu and Vanuatu's Naomi Sipiti in the playoffs.

In the girls U14 singles, Asia Raulerson and Malika Miyawaki are tied for second place in Group 2 as they finished Day 3 with similar 3-1 records. Miyawaki and Raulerson won over Kiribati's Caroline Mwang, 4-1, 5-3, and Vanuatu's Desiree Signo, 4-1, 4-0, respectively, yesterday to place second behind Tahiti's Lea Lamorelle (4-0). The two CNMI bets are likely to advance to the playoffs regardless of the results of their last pool play games. Miyawaki challenges Lamorelle today, while Raulerson faces Mwang.

In Group 1, Maria Gregoire and Conatsu Kaga posted identical 2-2 marks for a tie for second to third place behind Samoa's Eleanor Schuster (4-0) and Vanuatu's Rosalie Molballeh. Gregoire came from a hard-earned 4-5 (5), 4-2, 10-8 win over Kiribati's Rotuita Karatai to boost her playoff chances, while Conatsu bowed to Schuster, 0-4, 1-4.

FOUR

From Page 28

"I've enjoyed every single moment of it."

She added a bronze in the balance beam Monday in what marked the first day of a Summer Olympics since 2008 the United States didn't win a gold medal. The U.S. had claimed gold on every day of the 2012 and 2016 Olympics.

The drought proved brief. Christian Taylor won gold in the triple jump to start the day, and teammate Will Claye came in second - a familiar result for the Americans. Taylor and Claye finished 1-2 in triple jump in London as well.

It ended up being a pretty eventful day for Claye. Moments after earning his silver, he bounded into the stands, dropped to a knee and proposed to his longtime girlfriend , hurdler Queen Harrison. She said yes.

One day after a Brazilian pulled off an upset to win the men's pole vault Monday night, the women's soccer team lost to Sweden in a shootout. The Brazil men are still alive, however, and play a soccer semifinal match against Honduras on Wednesday.

The Brazil-Sweden game had the biggest crowd ever for a women's national team match in the country, and the fans roared whenever Marta touched the ball. The charismatic forward has been one of the world's top players for more than a decade, but she has never won a major international tournament with her national team.

"This loss won't take away from all that we have done to get here," Marta said. "We have the match for the bronze medal now and we will fight until the end to get that medal."

Other highlights from Day 11:

MILE HIGH : Faith Kipyegon of Kenya won the women's 1,500 meters to defeat Genzebe Dibaba of Ethiopia in the latest installment of their rivalry in the race. The bronze winner was Jenny Simpson - the first American woman to ever win a medal in the event.

JAMAICA WINS AGAIN : Jamaica already swept the 100-meter sprints with victories by Usain Bolt and Elaine Thompson. Now it has a 110 hurdles champion in Omar McLeod, who finished with a time of 13.05 seconds. McLeod excelled in track at the University of Arkansas.

BRAZILIANS ON THE BEACH: Brazil sent three teams onto the sand volleyball court of Rio de Janeiro's landmark Copacabana Beach on Tuesday. The No. 1-seeded women's team, Talita and Larissa, was ousted in straight sets. Then the men's team of Alison and Bruno advanced to the gold medal match with a win over the Netherlands, led by the 6-foot-8 Alison's 12 blocks.

Americans Kerri Walsh Jennings and April Ross will play in the late semifinal against Brazil's other women's team, Agatha and Barbara, for a spot in the gold medal match.

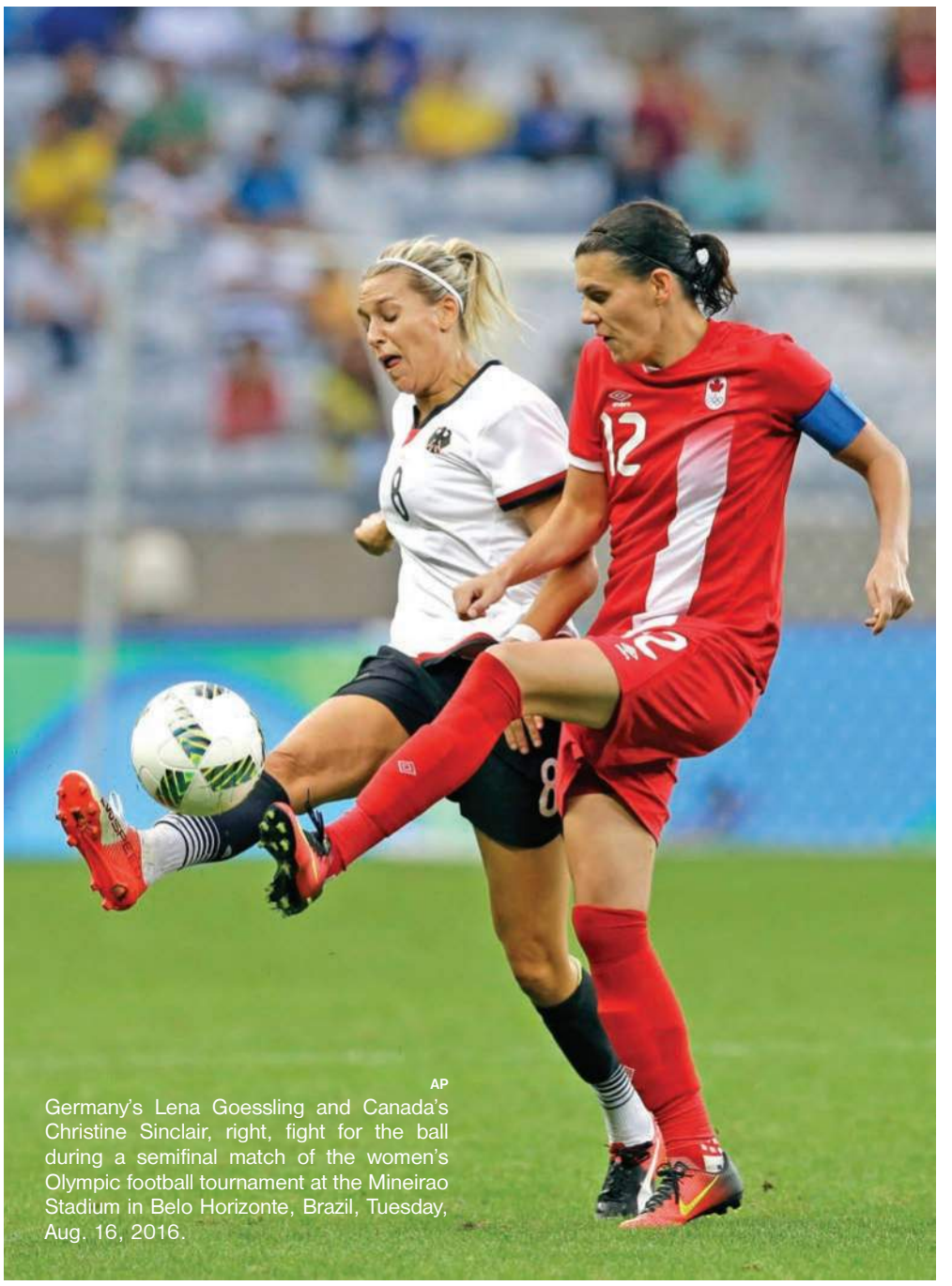
BADMINTON BLUES: China swept all five gold medals in badminton at the 2012 London Games, but they won't this year. China won't have the same problem in table tennis - they are going for a sweep in all four events. Its women's team won gold Tuesday night.

Germany vs Sweden in women's soccer finals

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil (AP)—Melanie Behringer and Sara Daebritz each scored Tuesday to send Germany to its first Olympic gold-medal match with a 2-0 win over Canada.

Behringer scored from the penalty spot in the 21st minute at the Mineirao Stadium, and Daebritz's goal came in the 59th. It was Canada's first loss of the tournament.

Germany, which has won three Olympic bronze medals in women's soccer, will face Sweden in the final on Friday at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro. The Swedes advanced 4-3 on penalties after a scoreless draw against host Brazil.



AP

Germany's Lena Goessling and Canada's Christine Sinclair, right, fight for the ball during a semifinal match of the women's Olympic football tournament at the Mineirao Stadium in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2016.

Canada, which won bronze four years ago, was the only team from the medal round at the 2012 London Games to return to the semifinals in Brazil. The Canadians will play the host country for the bronze medal at Corinthians Arena in Sao Paulo.

"I can't fault this group, they have been outstanding," Canada coach John Herdman said. "Not the result we wanted but still proud."

Second-ranked Germany, a two-time Women's World Cup champion, won Olympic bronze medals in Sydney, Athens and Beijing.

The Germans defeated Sweden 2-1 in the final of the 2003 Women's World Cup, which was held in the United States because of the SARS outbreak in China.

The final gives Germany's Silvia Neid a chance to finish her career with a gold medal. The respected coach is stepping down following this Olympics to take a scouting role.

Meanwhile, goalkeeper Hedvig Lindahl wouldn't mind a third straight penalty shootout for Sweden in the women's Olympic soccer final.

After all, it's when she gets to have some fun.

"If that's what it takes, I don't mind," Lindahl said Tuesday after leading Sweden to a shootout win over host Brazil in the semifinals . "It's fun as a goalkeeper, you have nothing to lose. It's great."

After making a penalty save that helped Sweden get past the U.S. women's team in the quarterfinals, Lindahl made two stops against Brazil at the Maracana Stadium to secure her team's spot in the Olympic final for the first time.

"She is just very important for us," Sweden coach Pia Sundhage said of Lindahl. "There's some sort of calmness, and the way she reads the game, not only saving shots. She is so important. The fact that we advanced after a shootout against the U.S. team and now against Brazil is huge for us."

Lindahl had stopped Alex Morgan's opening penalty in the shootout against the Americans in Brasilia on Friday, when Sweden won 5-4 to upset the five-time gold medalists. She did even better at the famed Maracana on Tuesday, deflecting Cristiane's shot with her right arm and using both of her hands to push away Andressa's strike late in the shootout.

"It turned out well today," Lindahl said.

The 33-year-old goalkeeper said staying confident is her secret for her success in shootouts.

"I think that's all," Lindahl said. "It's fun because someone said that Sweden hadn't been in a penalty shootout in one of these important games since 1996, and now it's two in a row. Just fun that it works out our way. It looks like everyone feels confident."

Americans rolling in medal standings at Rio Olympics

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—The medal race at the Rio Olympics will likely remain close going into the final weekend.

For second place, that is.

The U.S.— which has left the last five Summer Games with more medals than any other country—is about to make it six in a row, and the Americans seem like they'll do so emphatically. Through Tuesday, the U.S. had 84 medals, 33 more than China and 34 more than Britain.

Take away the games that dealt with boycotts in 1980 and 1984, and the Americans are on pace for the biggest medal-count romp since outdistancing Sweden by 40 medals at the 1948 London Games. Incidentally, the all-time medal-count-margin record is way out of reach, that being the U.S. win by 220 medals at the St. Louis Games of 1904.

"We are the United States. We come here with an enormous presence and a lot of advantage and privilege," swimming gold medalist Anthony Ervin said after he prevailed in Rio de Janeiro, part of a huge pool medal haul for the Americans. "Our staff is unbelievable. The amount of people that help us ... I don't think the other teams are necessarily getting that. It starts there."

There's no shortage of reasons why.

Russia's Olympic team surely is missing some medal contenders because of the sanctions and fallout that came after a state-sponsored doping program was brought to light. China won 100 medals in Beijing eight years ago and 89 more at the 2012 London Games, though has struggled—by its recent standards, anyway—in Rio. Host Brazil has been a non-factor, with just 11 medals through Tuesday evening.

Meanwhile, U.S. women have won 41 medals themselves, more than most full national teams. China is second on the women's medal chart with 28 through Tuesday evening.

"When one of us succeeds, we all try to succeed that much more," Ervin said. "When your teammates are doing it, it becomes easier to believe."

That sort of thinking isn't confined to swimming, though what happened in the pool certainly set the tone.

"I think we each feel an enormous responsibility to get things started off right," U.S. swimmer Nathan Adrian said.

US battles Argentina in men's basketball quarters

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—In the last three Olympics it was a semifinal matchup, the penultimate step on the winner's climb to the gold-medal podium.

Now the U.S. men's basketball team meets Argentina in the quarterfinals, and the stakes couldn't be clearer.

The Americans win, or suffer their greatest Olympic failure ever.

The Argentines win, or say goodbye to their Golden Generation.

Manu Ginobili and Luis Scola did the punching when the U.S. was knocked down to its lowest point 12 years ago, and the Americans, who've handled them every time since, expect their proud opponents to have one last good fight in them.

"Guys like that, they've been together and so well-coached and they've helped international basketball take giant steps forward, and we know that's what we're playing" on Wednesday, U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said.

It's the third game of quarterfinal Wednesday, which opens with Australia playing Lithuania. Rivals France and Spain play next—with the winner getting the U.S.-Argentina winner—and Croatia faces Serbia in the nightcap.

Any of those teams should believe in its chances after the Americans were challenged like never before under Krzyzewski in the preliminary round, winning their last three games by 10, three and three points.

It's a far cry from last month, when the U.S. beat Argentina 111-74 in an exhibition game in Las Vegas, back when even rival teams seemed to be conceding gold to the Americans.

Nobody is doing that now.

"When we played them a month ago, I said what I thought it was. We weren't there, we couldn't compete," Scola said. "A month went by, I don't know, maybe they didn't play that well this month, they got a little comfortable and play a little worse. Maybe we got better this month and the difference is much smaller. Maybe.

"It's just one game, anything can happen. But we don't think it's going to be easy."

Nor do the Americans, still thinking of what Argentina used to be, instead of the team it is now.

Ginobili is 39 and Scola 36, almost certainly playing in their last Olympics, and the aging Argentines looked out of gas Monday when they were blown out by Spain, two days after needing two overtimes to outlast Brazil 111-107. They lack size to match the Americans' tandem of DeMarcus Cousins and DeAndre Jordan -- the 6-foot-8 Scola often has to play center—and at times in the exhibition rout it appeared the U.S. could keep grabbing offensive rebounds until it finally scored.

But inside Carioca Arena 1, which has been filled with so much light blue and white during Argentina's games that it resembles clouds in the sky, the Americans believe their undersized opponents will stand tall.

"They match up with anybody in that they will put their heart, their soul and their bodies out on the court against you, and anybody that does that has a chance to win," Krzyzewski said. "And I've never seen an Argentina team go on the court not thinking that they could win and we expect that from them."

The U.S. teams that won gold in 2008 and 2012 overpowered Argentina in the semifinals, but those teams were loaded with All-NBA players. This is just an NBA team, not an All-NBA one, not after players such as LeBron James, Stephen Curry and Russell Westbrook stayed home.

That's left these Americans looking more like 2004, when they scrambled to put together an unprepared team that didn't have much of a talent advantage on its opponents. The U.S. was beaten 89-81 in the semis by Argentina, which then beat Italy for the championship, earning its Golden Generation nickname.

Pierce plans on returning to Clippers

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Sports

Germany vs Sweden in women's soccer finals

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Lee, Schorr still unbeaten

OCEANIA TENNIS FEDERATION
The CNMI's Carol Lee makes a return near the net while training at the OTF/ITF facility in Fiji early this month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Top-ranked Robbie Schorr and Carol Lee continued to live up to high expectations as they are still undefeated in the ongoing 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji.

Schorr swept his pool play games in Group 1 of the boys U14 singles to finish the preliminary round with a 5-0 record. The No. 1 seed in the division retained his clean slate after shutting down fellow CNMI player Sean Lee, 4-0, 4-0, yesterday.

Lee fell to a 3-2 mark for

See LEE on Page 26

Four on the floor for Simone; Bolt coasts in 200-meter heat

OLYMPIC GAMES Rio2016 Roundup

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)— Simone Biles closed her Rio Games with more gymnastics gold. Usain Bolt breezed through another sprint as he makes a run at one final Olympic title in his favorite race.

Bolt easily won a qualifying race Tuesday in the 200 meters, the first step in his bid for the gold Thursday. His prowess on the track is the dominant story line of the final week of the Olympics, along with Biles' resounding success in gymnastics.

"I came out here to qualify," Bolt said, "and that's what I did."

It was a wild ride Tuesday for fans of the Brazil team. Their women's soccer team and top-ranked beach volleyball duo were eliminated from the Olympics, but a lightweight boxer gave the host nation a lift with a stirring victory in his gold medal bout. Robson Conceicao whipped the packed arena into a frenzy with every jab as he claimed the country's first gold medal in boxing.

Biles won the floor exercise Tuesday for her fourth gold of the games - only the fourth Olympic gymnast to do so.

"It's been a long journey," the 19-year-old Biles said.

See FOUR on Page 26

AP
United States' Simone Biles performs on the floor during the artistic gymnastics women's apparatus final at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2016.

Bears rally in Game 3, finish off Aces

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

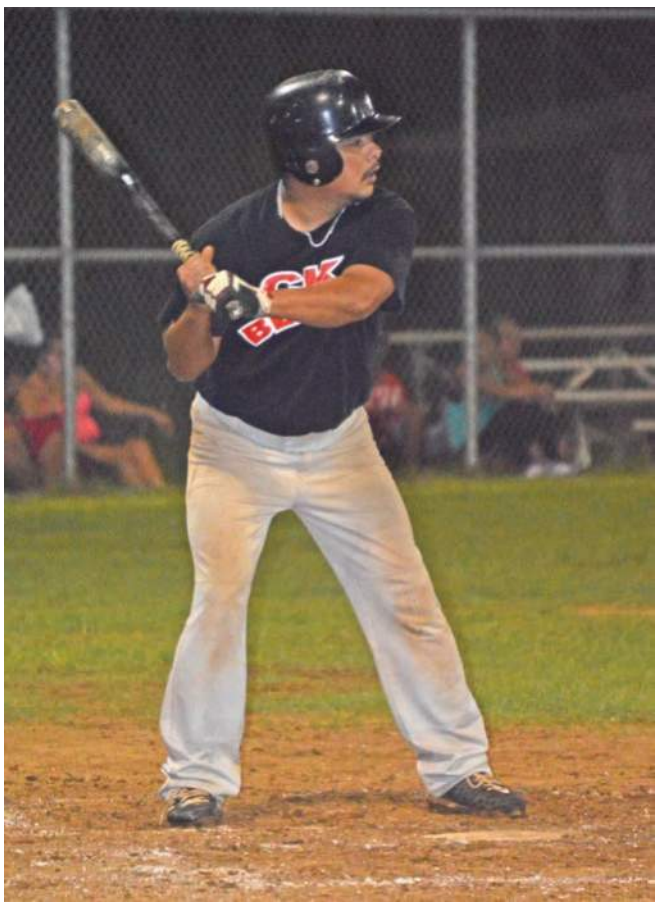
The Chalan Kanoa Bears capped their domination in the 2016 Saipan Baseball League with a 5-4 win against the BSI Aces in Game 3 of their title series last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Marvin Kaipat ended the best-of-five finals duel and gave the Bears the sweep after hitting the game-winning hit. He blasted a single to the deep left-field to bring Peyton Lizama home at the bottom of the ninth inning.

Peyton led off for the Bears in the last inning and was hit by a pitch. Jose Lizama was next at bat and BSI Aces pitcher Mike Iguel walked him. Peyton and Jose went on to move to third and second, respectively, while third batter Kiku Lizama grounded out at first. Marvin then stepped onto the plate—his fifth at bat—and after flying out in his previous attempt, the leftfielder this time was on target, making contact with the ball on Iguel's first pitch to bring Peyton home for the winning run.

The series-clinching Game 3 victory was a come-from-behind one for the Bears, who once stared a 1-4 deficit after

See BEARS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Chalan Kanoa Bears' Jerome Delos Santos waits for the pitch during the top of the fourth inning of Game 2 of their title series against the BSI Aces in the 2016 Saipan Baseball League last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

COUNTRIES	G	S	B	T
UNITED STATES	28	28	28	84
GREAT BRITAIN	19	19	12	50
CHINA	17	15	19	51
RUSSIA	12	12	14	38
GERMANY	11	8	7	26
ITALY	8	9	6	23
NETHERLANDS	8	3	3	14
FRANCE	7	11	11	29
AUSTRALIA	7	8	9	24
JAPAN	7	4	18	29
KOREA	6	3	5	14
HUNGARY	6	3	4	13
SPAIN	4	1	2	7
NEW ZEALAND	3	6	1	10
BRAZIL	3	4	4	11
KENYA	3	3	0	6
CANADA	3	2	9	14
CROATIA	3	2	0	5
JAMAICA	3	0	2	5
KAZAKHSTAN	2	3	5	10
DPR KOREA	2	3	2	7
CUBA	2	2	4	8
POLAND	2	2	3	7
COLOMBIA	2	2	0	4
BELGIUM	2	1	2	5

As of 5:00 p.m. August 17, 2016

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